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## NATIVE AGENDA

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APRIL/MAY 1992



Spring heralded significant agreements under the Native Agenda.

**On April 22**, Minister Tom Siddon was in Fort McPherson, N.W.T., for an historic signing ceremony to finalize the Gwich'in comprehensive land claim agreement. "The Gwich'in agreement is proof the federal government is dedicated to settling comprehensive land claims quickly, as promised in our Native Agenda," said Minister Siddon.

The comprehensive land claim between the Gwich'in of the Mackenzie Delta and the Government of Canada will bring meaningful benefits and guaranteed participation in public management to about 2,200 Gwich'in people in Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River.

The Gwich'in will be private land owners to 22,331 square kilometres in the Northwest Territories and Yukon. Financial benefits for the Gwich'in include a tax-free payment of \$75 million over 15 years, a share of resource royalties in the western N.W.T., and a 15-year subsidy of property taxes on certain Gwich'in municipal lands.

**Also in April**, a political accord was struck between the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government which deals with the main principles for the establishment and implementation of a new Nunavut Territory and government in the eastern Arctic. In accordance with the Inuit land claim final agreement, the Nunavut Political Accord deals with the powers of a Nunavut government, its institutions, and its financing.

**In May**, "Brighter Futures", a \$160 million, five-year federal initiative was announced. The plan includes an Aboriginal component which "reflects a shared goal of government and First Nations: improving the physical, mental and social well-being of Aboriginal children, their families and their communities," said Minister Siddon in Edmonton. "This initiative will go a long

way towards finding culturally meaningful and lasting solutions to pressing problems in Aboriginal communities. It will also greatly enhance the partnership role of First Nations in taking action on matters affecting their daily lives," added the Minister.

#### Northwest Territories

- April 24** -- N.W.T. Tribal Councils received \$1.5 million from DIAND to support increased professional advisory services to bands in the areas of band governance, financial management and economic development. The type and level of advisory services provided is determined by each council and member band.

#### Yukon

- April** -- Programs under the Arctic Environmental Strategy (AES) are helping Native peoples maintain a traditional lifestyle based on wildlife, fish and plants. In cooperation with First Nations, a five-year research plan has been developed to identify contaminants in fish, water and sediments of Lake Laberge and other Yukon lakes, to study the effect of contaminants on country foods and wildlife, and to examine the effect of metal discharge produced by mining.
- April** -- Also under the AES, DIAND held public consultations on waste clean-up in 16 Yukon communities. The meetings were to determine communities' clean-up priorities. The field Operations Section of DIAND has identified 400 to 500 waste sites in the territory. DIAND now has a machine for crushing 45 gallon metal drums and it will be used in the clean-up campaign of abandoned barrels.

- April** -- The Dease River First Nation, in Good Hope (B.C.), will soon celebrate the completion of a substantial project funded by DIAND, which shows the First Nation's growing ability to manage its own programs. With \$365,000 from DIAND, the First

Nation is renovating an unused provincial school. The renovated building will have enough space to provide classes from kindergarten to grade 7. DIAND also provided funds to the First Nation to upgrade the existing power system in response to increase power requirement.

**May** -- The Carcross/Tagish First Nation received \$17,100 in federal funds from Resource Access Negotiation to negotiate a training and employment agreement with Wheaton River Minerals. This company hopes to reopen the Mt. Skukum gold mine in the Wheaton River valley, South of Whitehorse. "A target of 30 per cent First Nation employment will be a basis for negotiations," said Maria Benoit, economic development officer for the First Nation. She added that the company had already suggested a minimum of six Native training positions.

**May** -- The Vuntut Gwich'in in Old Crow, have become the first Yukon First Nation to see its Land Claim Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreement initialised. The agreements must still get approval from the First Nation members, the Yukon Legislature and the federal Cabinet. Negotiators for the federal government, CYI and the Yukon government have also finalized the wording of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA). The conclusion of the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation agreement has allowed the Yukon government to table two bills, which, when passed, will put into effect the new agreements. Negotiations continue with three other First Nations: Champagne/Aishihik, Teslin Tlingit Council, and Na Cho Ny'ak Dun.

#### British Columbia

- April 10** -- An agreement with the Nanoose Band was ratified in April. The settlement involves compensation of \$425,000 for the alienation of 33 acres of waterfront in 1933.



## Alberta

- **April 14-15** -- The Department provided \$7,500 towards an All-Chiefs Oil and Gas Conference entitled Working with Industry. During the Calgary conference, the Canadian Petroleum Association (CPA) and the Canadian Indian Energy Corporation (IEC), which hosted the event, signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Principles concerning industry relations with First Nations. The statement of Principles includes provisions for ongoing dialogue and cooperation in areas of employment and training.
- **April 28** -- The Department contributed \$10,000 to the All-Chiefs Education Forum at Edmonton. Greater participation by Aboriginal people in the education process was the focus of the event. Harvey McCue, from DIAND's education branch in Ottawa, was on hand to meet with Alberta First Nations.

## Saskatchewan

- **April** -- A new community water system has been completed on the Muskowekwan Reserve. The new system will provide potable water for the band hall and band office. It also has a truck fill facility for servicing reserve houses. Approximately \$412,500 was provided through the Green Plan Indian Health and Water Initiative.
- **May** -- James Smith Cree Nation has completed an elementary/secondary school facility. Approximately 300 students are enroled in grades kindergarten to twelve. Special features of the Bernard Constant Community School include a large gymnasium, home economics room, library, culture room, special education facilities, a science room and a multi-purpose room. The total budget of the 38,720 square foot school was \$8.2 million.

- **May** -- Onion Lake First Nation has completed construction of the Eagleview Comprehensive High School. It is equipped to teach computer science, business administration, industrial arts and home economics. The approximate enrolment is 350 students in grade levels 7-12 and a special education program. The school was designed in such a way that each classroom enjoys a view of Long Lake. The total cost of the 41,980 square foot facility was \$6,361,000.

## Manitoba

- **April 21** -- A family crisis centre, Wechinin Waskigan, opened on the Shamattawa First Nation reserve, 750 km north of Winnipeg. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, under the Project Haven Program, provided a grant of \$188 thousand for the capital cost of the project. DIAND provides an annual operating allowance of \$230 thousand.
- **May 1** -- Dakota Plains First Nation celebrated the opening of a \$120 thousand community building with space for the band administration and program staff serving approximately 96 band members. The new facility will also house the Native Alcohol and Drug Awareness program. DIAND contributed \$30 thousand towards this capital project.

## Ontario

- **April 7** -- The First Nations Policing Agreement was signed by Ontario Indian leaders, and Ministers Siddon and Doug Lewis. The number of Native constables will double under the agreement and regional agreements will be developed by the Ontario Provincial Police with local Indian policing authorities.

## Quebec

- **May 22** -- Minister of State Monique Landry signed a funding agreement for the construction of the future village of the Oujé-Bougoumou Crees. The agreement is for the construction of 125 houses, municipal infrastructure and schools, as well as the financing and running of the band. The total value of the agreement over a five-year period is more than \$60 million.

## Atlantic

- **May 1** -- Six summer student police cadet officers on the Eskasoni Reserve, Cape Breton, completed an intensive training program to prepare for a summer of policing on the reserve.
- **May 28** -- An agreement was signed by the Minister, the Province of New Brunswick and the Native Women's Council of New Brunswick for the construction and operation of a shelter house for Native women. The agreement between DIAND and the Province relates to operational costs. During the first two years of operation, each side will pay forty per cent of the operating cost. Officials are hoping to start October 1, 1992. A cost-sharing agreement, which will come into effect after 1994, is currently being negotiated.
- **May 29** -- At a formal ceremony, Minister Tom Siddon and the Assembly of Chiefs of Nova Scotia signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a foundation for the transfer of all education activities in Nova Scotia to First Nations and their institutions.
- **May** -- The Micmac Association of Cultural Studies has successfully negotiated with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia to hold a major exhibit of Micmac/Maliseet Art during the International Year of Indigenous People in 1993.

## NATIVE AGENDA

## NEWS

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## MARCH 1992

By assisting First Nations realize community-level initiatives, DIAND is fulfilling the federal government's commitment to enhancing social and economic conditions on reserves, under the Native Agenda.

## Manitoba

- **March 13** -- A \$274 thousand community complex was opened on the Pauingassi First Nation reserve to provide space for their first band office, a recreation centre and a community hall. DIAND contributed \$70 thousand towards the facility. The people of Pauingassi became a band in October 1991 and elected their first chief and council in November.
- **March 16** -- Canada, Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro signed the North Central Hydro Electrification Agreement to supply unlimited electricity to approximately 8,750 residents of seven First Nations and two northern communities in northwest Manitoba. The project will serve the First Nations communities of Garden Hill, God's Lake, God's River, Oxford House, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point, and Wasagamack, as well as the two northern communities of Island Lake and God's Lake Narrows. It is scheduled for completion in 1997, and will cost an estimated \$117 million. DIAND will contribute approximately \$87.7 million.

## Alberta

- **March 13** -- The Sucker Creek Woman's Emergency Shelter officially opened its doors as part of a major initiative to combat family violence in Aboriginal communities. The shelter, located on the Sucker Creek Indian Reserve, is funded under Project Haven and administered through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will provide the band \$220,000 in operating expenses for the 1992-93 fiscal year and a \$50,000 one-time only start-up grant. The shelter is approximately 338 km north of Edmonton.

## Ontario

- **During March**, 10 more Ontario First Nations entered into Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) with the federal government, bringing the total number of AFA Agreements in the region to 30 since the Native Agenda was introduced in 1990. Among those First Nations who signed in March, are Kaschechewan, Moose Factory and Chapleau Cree.
- DIAND committed \$66,000 for the development of aboriginal standards for Child and Family Services in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. This process will involve consultations with tribal councils communities, as well as the three

existing Native Child and Family Services agencies within NAN.

- \$532,000 from DIAND and \$269,000 from Health and Welfare Canada is to be used for the provision of on-going services to deal with all aspects of family violence on reserves in Ontario.
- DIAND committed \$120,000 for the delivery of professional development workshops for principals and administrators responsible for education on reserves in Ontario. For the first time, the gathering was held on-reserve (Six Nations) and controlled by a Native organization. The initiative reflects DIAND's continued commitment to Indian Control of Indian Education.

## British Columbia

- Important strides were made to further the land claims process in British Columbia. The federal and provincial governments announced on March 4 they are ready to begin negotiations on cost-sharing of aboriginal land claims in that province. An agreement was reached on a process to determine the roles and responsibilities of the two governments in the negotiation and provision of the benefits related to treaties.
- **March 9-11** -- The Working Conference on Housing, driven by First Nations with support from



DIAND, was heralded a great success. More than 150 people, mostly Chiefs, attended. Some 125 people participated in workshops over a three-day period. Popular workshops included increasing Aboriginal control of housing and land tenure. An Aboriginal Task Force is being appointed to prepare a position paper which reflects the Conference recommendations for a new housing policy. If ratified at the All Chiefs meeting in June, the paper will be used as a basis for a Cabinet submission this Fall.

#### *Yukon*

- A joint agreement to provide up to \$9 million for tourism development and \$3 million for small business development in the Yukon was announced by the federal and territorial governments. Under the Canada-

Yukon Economic Development Agreement, First Nations will benefit directly from tourism training and marketing, small business training and technology transfer elements of the programming. By commenting on all project proposals, a newly-formed Aboriginal Advisory Committee will suggest measures to maximize project benefits to Native business and workers.

- A major series of community consultations is taking place under the Arctic Environment Strategy to gather input on priorities for the clean-up of abandoned wastes throughout the Yukon. Meetings in all Yukon communities are being staged to gather input on waste clean-up and to provide information on activities under the waste, water, contaminants and economy programs of the Green Plan initiative.

#### **CORRECTION:**

**February 21** -- The first joint meeting on Aboriginal participation in the workforce was held this month. Representatives from three government departments (Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Employment and Immigration Canada and the Public Service Commission), and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), Simon Fraser University, an Aboriginal communications society and an employment consultant met to discuss strategies for increasing Aboriginal participation in the workplace of CBC in British Columbia

## LE PROGRAMME POUR LES AUTOCHTONES

## NOUVELLES

MARS 1992

En aidant les Premières Nations à réaliser des initiatives communautaires, le MAINC rempli l'engagement du gouvernement fédéral d'améliorer les conditions sociales et économiques dans les réserves, en vertu du Programme pour les autochtones.

## Manitoba

- **Le 13 mars** -- Un complexe communautaire d'une valeur de 274 000 \$ a été ouvert dans la réserve de la Première Nation Pauingassi afin de fournir un local au premier bureau de la bande ainsi qu'un centre récréatif et une salle communautaire. Le MAINC a versé 70 000 \$ pour les installations. Les Indiens de Pauingassi sont devenus une bande en 1991; ils ont élu leur premier chef et leur conseil en novembre.

- **Le 16 mars** -- Le Canada, le Manitoba et Hydro-Manitoba ont signé une entente d'hydro-électrification dans le centre-nord du Manitoba destinée à fournir un approvisionnement illimité d'électricité à environ 8 750 résidants de sept Premières Nations et à deux collectivités du nord-ouest du Manitoba. Le projet alimentera en électricité les Premières Nations de Garden Hill, God's Lake, God's River, Oxford House, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point et Wasagamack, de même que les deux collectivités du Nord d'Island Lake et de God's Lake Narrows. Le projet devrait se terminer en 1997, et coûtera environ 117 millions de dollars. Le

financement du gouvernement fédéral s'élèvera à approximativement 87,7 millions de dollars.

## Alberta

- **Le 13 mars** -- L'ouverture officielle de l'abri de secours pour les femmes de Sucker Creek s'est effectuée dans le contexte d'une initiative importante visant à contrer la violence familiale dans les collectivités autochtones. L'abri, situé dans la réserve indienne de Sucker Creek, est financé en vertu d'Opération refuge et est administré par la Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement. Le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien accordera à la bande 220 000 \$ à titre de frais d'exploitation pour l'exercice financier 1992-1993 et une subvention unique de mise en marche de 50 000 \$. L'abri est situé à environ 338 kilomètres au nord d'Edmonton.

## Ontario

- **Au cours du mois de mars**, 10 autres Premières Nations de l'Ontario ont participé aux accords de Modes optionnels de financement (MOF) avec le gouvernement fédéral. Le nombre total de MOF dans la région s'élève ainsi à 30 depuis le lancement du Programme pour les autochtones en 1990. Parmi les Premières Nations qui ont signé les accords en mars on relève les Cris de Kaschewan, Moose Factory et Chapleau.



- Le MAINC a souscrit 66 000 \$ pour la mise au point de normes autochtones relatives à l'aide à l'enfance et à la famille de la Nation Nishnawbe-Aski. Ce processus comprendra des consultations avec les collectivités des conseils tribaux, ainsi qu'avec les trois organismes actuels d'aide à l'enfance et à la famille au sein de la Nation Nishnawbe-Aski.
- Le MAINC versera 532 000 \$ et Santé et Bien-être social Canada 269 000 \$ à la prestation de services continus ayant trait à tous les aspects de la violence familiale dans les réserves de l'Ontario.
- Le MAINC a engagé 120 000 \$ à la mise sur pied d'ateliers de travail professionnels à l'intention des directeurs et des administrateurs en charge de l'enseignement dans les réserves de l'Ontario. Pour la première fois, la réunion s'est tenue dans la réserve (Six-Nations) sous la direction d'une organisation autochtone. L'initiative témoigne de l'engagement constant du MAINC en faveur de la maîtrise de leur enseignement par les Indiens.

## Colombie-Britannique

- Il y a eu des progrès marqués en vue de favoriser le processus de revendications territoriales en Colombie-Britannique. Les gouvernements fédéral et provincial ont fait part, le 4 mars, qu'ils étaient prêts à commencer à négocier le partage des coûts des revendications territoriales des



autochtones dans cette province. On en est arrivé à un accord sur une façon de déterminer les rôles et les responsabilités des deux gouvernements dans la négociation et la répartition des avantages découlant des traités.

- **Du 9 au 11 mars** -- La Conférence de travail sur le logement, dirigée par les Premières Nations avec l'appui du MAINC, laisse présager un vif succès. Plus de 150 personnes, la plupart des Chefs, y assistaient. Quelque 125 personnes ont participé aux ateliers donnés pendant trois jours. Les ateliers les plus suivis traitaient de la maîtrise accrue des autochtones sur le logement et le régime foncier. On est en train de créer un groupe de travail dont la tâche sera de rédiger une déclaration de principe qui reflétera les recommandations de la Conférence en faveur d'une nouvelle politique du logement. Si les chefs la ratifient, à l'occasion d'une réunion qui aura lieu en juin, la déclaration servira à préparer une présentation au Cabinet cet automne.

#### *Yukon*

- Les gouvernements fédéral et du Territoire ont fait part d'une entente conjointe qui consacrera jusqu'à 9 millions de dollars à l'amélioration

du tourisme et 3 millions à l'expansion des petites entreprises au Yukon. En vertu de l'Entente-cadre de développement économique entre le Canada et le Territoire du Yukon, les Premières Nations tireront directement profit de la formation relative au tourisme, à la mise en marché et aux petites entreprises, de même qu'aux divers aspects de l'élaboration de programmes ayant trait au transfert de technologie. Dans ses observations sur l'ensemble des projets proposés, un Comité consultatif des autochtones récemment constitué suggérera les mesures qui s'imposent pour que les entreprises et les travailleurs autochtones tirent le maximum d'avantages des projets envisagés.

- La Stratégie pour l'environnement arctique donne actuellement lieu à des consultations importantes visant à recueillir de l'information sur les priorités souhaitables à propos du nettoyage des déchets laissés sur place dans tout le Yukon. On tient à cet égard des réunions dans toutes les régions du Yukon afin de collecter des données sur le nettoyage des déchets et d'informer la population sur les programmes relatifs aux déchets, à l'eau, aux contaminants et à l'économie du Plan vert.

#### **CORRECTION :**

**Le 21 février** -- On a tenu au cours du mois la première réunion conjointe sur la participation des autochtones au groupe de travail. Des participants se sont rencontrés pour discuter des stratégies aptes à accroître la participation autochtone au milieu de travail de Radio-Canada en Colombie-Britannique. On relève parmi eux des représentants de trois ministères (Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada, Emploi et Immigration Canada et la Commission de la Fonction publique du Canada), de la Société Radio-Canada, de la British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), de la Simon Fraser University, d'une entreprise de communication autochtone et d'un consultant en matière d'emploi.

# NATIVE AGENDA

## NEWS

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### JANUARY 1992

The new year heralded important developments in cultural, judicial and socio-economic issues.

**Television Northern Canada (TVNC)** signed on with a live broadcast. Beaming to northern people spread across five time zones and 1.3 million square miles, TVNC puts Native culture and language squarely in the electronic age. The network provides programming in 11 Native languages, produced by and for Native people in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Labrador and Arctic Quebec. Federal seed funding of \$10 million financed the start-up of TVNC, which will operate on revenues generated by nine full member and six associate member networks.

The first specific claim to be settled under the new federal government "fast-track" process was reached with the **Saulteau First Nation** of northeastern B.C. The band claimed there had been insufficient compensation for the transfer of part of East Moberly Lake Indian Reserve No. 169 for two highway rights-of-way in 1960 and 1976. The settlement compensates the band \$275,000 for the land plus \$20,000 for negotiation expenses. The band intends to use the compensation to purchase land near its reserve and has requested the land be set aside as reserve.

Two recent decisions by the **Federal Court of Appeal** confirmed DIAND's authority to protect the environment under the *Environmental Assessment Review Process Guidelines Order* and to protect federal lands from mineral staking. In the first decision, the Court ruled the department was correct in requiring measures to protect a Yukon fishery which Native people rely upon as a food source. In the second decision, the Federal Court of Appeal overturned a lower court decision and found that the federal Mining Recorder in Yukon was correct in refusing to register a block of claims staked in a tract of land protected as a land selection of the Kluane Tribal Council. The lands had been withdrawn to protect a key traditional area of the First Nation from development, pending a final land claims settlement.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Tom Siddon, responded on January 15, 1992, to the report to the Human Rights Commission on the complaints of the **Inuit** relocated from Inukjuak and Pond Inlet to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay in 1953 and 1955. After a full review of the report, the Minister issued a statement in which he said: "...I believe Professor Soberman's recommendations to be generally fair in this approach to resolving this matter. .... The Government of Canada has already provided support -- in the form of transportation and housing -- for the roughly 50 Inuit who wanted to return to Inukjuak. To date, approximately \$1 million has been provided to the Inuit, through the Makivik Corporation of Northern Quebec, for this purpose. We have indicated that we will pay the moving expenses of anyone else who wants to return to Inukjuak. ... The other recommendations are generally acceptable. I will want to discuss them with the Makivik Corporation to determine how and when they can be implemented."

#### Northwest Territories

- **January 16** - The **Fort Liard Band** received Community Resource Management Program funds to draft and negotiate a resource framework for the Liard River Valley. The resource framework involves the community of Nahanni Butte and will lead to a long-term land-use management and resource development plan that will embody the band's short- and long-term interests.
- **January 23** - Land claim negotiations involving the **Sahtu Tribal Council** and the federal government are underway. The opening three days of negotiations will define the overall shape of negotiations and answer such questions as who will be eligible to benefit from the land claim.

#### Yukon

- The crime rate in the community of Teslin has plummeted since the introduction of a **Tribal Justice System**

by the **Teslin Tlingit First Nation**. The system features direct participation of First Nation members in the sentencing process. First Nation members say the new system promotes a sense of community responsibility in dealing with crime and increased respect for the justice system.

- Fire sprinkler systems have been installed in 13 new **Taku River Tlingit homes** in a \$150,000 pilot project aimed at eliminating deaths resulting from house fires. The systems were installed on the basis of a fire control study, also funded by DIAND. The benefits of the system will be evaluated and the First Nation will transfer the technology to other Yukon Region First Nations.

#### Alberta

- **January 6** - The **Stoney Tribe** officially opened the Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter, at Morley, 50 kilometres west of Calgary. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provided the capital funds while the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will contribute approximately \$275,000 in annual operating and maintenance funds. The centre, built under the Project Haven program, will provide shelter to women and children fleeing family violence.
- **January 23** - The governments of Canada and Alberta agreed to an **Administrative Reform Arrangement for Social Services** which will provide fairness in the delivery of services for both on- and off-reserve Status Indians residing in the Treaty 7 and 8 areas in Alberta. The agreement also provides for interested First Nations and Aboriginal organizations to begin the process of assuming responsibility for the management and delivery of social services to Status Indians both on- and off-reserve.



## *Saskatchewan*

- Construction of a lake intake and water treatment plant at **Pelican Lake Reserve** is finished, and the plant is operational. Funding of approximately \$400,000 was provided through the Green Plan Indian Health and Water Initiative.
- **January 31** - A report with recommendations to make the **justice system** more responsive to Indian people in Saskatchewan was released. The report is the result of eight months of review by a committee comprising Justice Canada, Saskatchewan Justice and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

## *Manitoba*

- **January 10** - **Pine Creek First Nation** officially opened a new recreational arena complex. DIAND contributed approximately \$150,000 towards the project. The complex includes a self-serve restaurant which seats 38. A \$24,000 economic development loan from DIAND was provided to make this venture possible.

## *Ontario*

- **January 16** - The governments of Ontario and Canada announced a \$48-million project to build **water and sewer** systems in 21 northern Ontario Indian communities.
- **January 28** - **The Ogemawahj Tribal Council** signed a five-year, \$1.5-million Alternative Funding Arrangement agreement. The agreement will enable the tribal council to provide advisory services to its six member First Nations.

## *Quebec*

- **January 14** - Grand Chief "Oné-Onti" Gros Louis of the **Huron-Wendat Nation Council** signed a framework agreement to negotiate the establishment of a new relationship between Canada and the Huron-Wendat Nation. Topics being negotiated include the development of a Huron-Wendat Constitution, the structure and powers of a Huron-Wendat government, financial arrangements, and mechanisms for implementing a final agreement.
- **January 16** - **The Betsiamites Band Council** signed a tripartite agreement for policing services on the Betsiamites Reserve. The agreement is the first of its kind in Quebec. It is the result of several months of negotiations between the Department of Public Safety and the Betsiamites Band Council, with the participation of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Canada and Quebec will pay 52 and 48 percent, respectively, of the projected budget for the service.
- **January 17** - **The Wanaki Treatment Centre** for alcohol and drug addiction was officially opened at River Desert, Maniwaki, by members of the centre's administration and representatives from Health and Welfare Canada. The centre, built at a cost of \$865,000, will serve the Algonquin communities in the Outaouais and Abitibi-Tamiskaming areas. The centre employs ten people and offers services in three languages.
- **January 23** - **The Attikamek Obedjiwan** community near Chibougamau received a \$5.8-million investment from DIAND for a two-phase project to improve the band's

school facilities. In Phase one, a high school will be built to accommodate 140 students in grades eight to ten. In Phase two, the existing elementary school (Niska) will be expanded and a playground will be built for preschoolers, and kindergarten and elementary school pupils. A new teachers' residence will also be built as part of Phase two.

FEBRUARY 1992

Progress on the Native Agenda continued in February. The Native Agenda, announced by the Prime Minister in September 1990, proposed lasting solutions based on four main pillars:

- accelerating the settlement of land claims,
- enhancing social and economic conditions on reserves,
- improving the relationship between First Nations and governments, and
- addressing the concerns of Aboriginal peoples in contemporary Canadian life.

With respect to Pillar II, a status report on the implementation of the **Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development** (CAED) Strategy was published. Each fiscal year of the current five-year strategy, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is providing about \$70 million in contributions to Indian and Inuit community economic development activities to the strategy. The strategy is a partnership between Aboriginal communities and the federal government (Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Industry, Science and Technology Canada; and Employment and Immigration Canada being the lead departments.)

Progress on the Native Agenda is also evident in the regions:

### Manitoba

- **February 7** - A \$406,000 community complex with an attached band hall was opened on the **Berens River Reserve**, about 270 kilometres north-east of Winnipeg. The facility will house band administration and program staff, serving approximately 1,050 band members.
- **February 11** - Accelerated through Green Plan funding, a \$6.4-million water distribution and sewer system was announced for the **Bloodvein First Nation**, about 210 kilometres north-east of Winnipeg. The system will serve 105 households and increase the band's fire protection capability.
- **February 27** - Seven First Nations' police officers graduated from a two-week introductory training program. The police officers were trained to provide **policing services on Indian reserves and in Métis**

communities. The program is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Manitoba Department of Justice and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.



the timing for substantive negotiations between the Government of Canada and the band.

### Ontario

- **February 13** - The Eabametoong First Nation will receive \$11 million to build a **water, sewer and road-drainage system** to service the core area of its community and two new subdivisions. About 1,529 people live in the community, in north-central Ontario.
- **February 14** - Bearskin Lake First Nation will proceed with the construction of a **water and sewer project** at an estimated cost of \$6.4 million. A complementary project involves the construction of **roads and a truck storage and maintenance facility** at a cost of \$2.6 million. Bearskin Lake, which is located about 230 miles north of Sioux Lookout in northwestern Ontario, is accessible only by air.
- **February 14** - Funding of \$5.8 million has been approved for the construction of a **new school** at Marten Falls First Nation, some 240 miles north-east of Thunder Bay.

### British Columbia

- **February 4** - Doreen Mullins was appointed Director of the **B.C. Comprehensive Claims Office**. As director, Ms. Mullins is responsible for managing the federal government's overall claims negotiation process in the province.
- **February 21** - The first joint meeting on **Aboriginal participation in the workforce** was held this month. Representatives from three government departments (Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Employment and Immigration Canada, and the Public Service Commission), the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, an Aboriginal communications society and an employment consultant met to discuss strategies for increasing Aboriginal participation in the workplace in British Columbia.
- The Cape Mudge Band, located near Campbell River, signed a **self-government framework agreement**. The framework agreement establishes the guidelines and

### Northwest Territories

- **February 7** - The Deninoo Community Council, Fort Resolution Hamlet Council and Fort Smith community leaders met with federal and territorial representatives to discuss the first year's results of the **Slave River Water Monitoring Project**. The project is designed to gather baseline data and assess the level of PCB and CFC contamination in that portion of the Slave River located in the Northwest Territories.
- **February 11** - The Dene Nation invited federal representatives to a **three-day environment workshop** in Yellowknife to discuss the components of the Arctic Environment Strategy (AES): water, waste, legislation, and environment/economy integration. The workshop closed with the discussion centering on the role of the Dene Nation's Environment Department and its involvement with the AES, community environmental concerns and research priorities in Denendeh.



## Quebec

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- **February 24** - The community of Timiskaming inaugurated the **Kiwetin school**, built at a cost of \$2.8 million. Since January 1992, the new school has accepted nearly 100 pupils from pre-school to eighth grade. The band council managed the overall construction project and will run the school under a program developed by the local authorities.
- **February 27** - The River Desert Band signed a tripartite agreement for **policing services** on its reserve, making River Desert the first Native community in Quebec to administer its police services autonomously. The agreement provides for the creation of a police commission made up of civilian representatives responsible for the recruitment and hiring

of six constables appointed and sworn in according to Quebec law. The agreement, which takes effect April 1, 1992, will run for three years, at which time it may be renewed. The federal government will pay 52 per cent of the cost of providing the service, while the provincial government will pay 48 per cent.

## Alberta

- The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Indian First Nations and Health and Welfare Canada are participating in an initiative aimed at addressing **family violence and child sexual abuse**. DIAND has committed \$355,500 in the 1991-92 fiscal year and \$584,200 in the 1992-93 fiscal year to assist First Nations in Alberta to develop projects that will meet the needs of their people in combatting family violence. Projects take the form of community meetings or workshops covering family violence and child sexual abuse, counselling services and disseminating information to the public.
- The department has provided a total of \$1.4 million in **loan guarantees** to Indian businesses on Alberta reserves that require commercial loans.

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entered into an agreement on two initiatives". To date, there have been discussions on a workplan; no agreement has been formally written. The item should read as follows.

- DIAND and the MAWIW Council are jointly studying a community-based, long-term funding model and Native-specific social assistance needs. The working group is composed of DIAND officials and Band officials from the Council's member bands. The results of these initiatives will provide input for further discussion on these items.

## NATIVE AGENDA

## NEWS

DECEMBER 1991

Progress on the Native Agenda was enhanced in December by two historic agreements reached in Canada's north: the first with the Council for Yukon Indians, the second with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut.

**The Council for Yukon Indians** adopted the Yukon Comprehensive Land Claim Settlement. On December 5, the Council executive and the chiefs of all 14 Yukon First Nations initialled the revised Umbrella Final Agreement and four model First Nation Final Agreements as well as First Nation Final Self-Government Agreements. The chiefs approved the model agreements, which will now proceed to ratification by the membership of the four First Nations. Pending ratification by First Nation members, the land claims package will be forwarded soon to the federal and territorial Cabinets for ratification prior to the drafting of settlement legislation.

Final Agreement was also reached, on December 16, with the **Tungavik Federation of Nunavut** on the terms of TFN land claims settlement in the Northwest Territories. Among the major terms, the Inuit will receive title to 350,000 square kilometres of land, a cash payment of \$580 million over 14 years, and will participate as equal partners in land use, water and wildlife management boards. The Agreement also sets out the steps leading to the creation of the new territory of Nunavut. The first step in this process includes the negotiation of a political accord dealing with the powers, financial arrangements and timetable for establishing the new territorial government. Once the accord is signed, legislation creating the new territory will be introduced to Parliament. Furthermore, a plebiscite is expected to be held this spring throughout the NWT to confirm approval of the proposed boundaries for Nunavut before final ratification of the agreement establishing Nunavut.

Also in December, the Government of British Columbia joined the federal government in accepting the 19 recommendations of the **B.C. Claims Task Force**. Minister Siddon was encouraged by

the B.C. government's decision, stating, "It represents an essential commitment by the province to participate in the negotiations and to develop a new relationship with B.C. First Nations." A key recommendation called for the creation of a tripartite B.C. Treaty Commission to ensure fair, impartial and efficient negotiations.

A new program to help launch Aboriginal businesses is creating jobs and income for Native communities, according to the first annual report on the **Resource Access Negotiations (RAN) Program**. During its first year, RAN contributed \$1.6 million to 50 resource development projects, which have already created over 600 jobs. The financial support provided by RAN assists Indian, Inuit and Innu communities to develop local resources. Mining and fishing ventures have been particularly successful.

Regionally, progress on the Native Agenda was no less significant.

## Atlantic

- **December** - The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Medical Services Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare have jointly funded an initiative geared towards the **prevention of family violence** in First Nation communities. Seven First Nation organizations in New Brunswick have received funding and are in the process of developing community-based prevention programs. This is the first program of its type in the Atlantic Region.

- **December** - A statistical review of the enrolment figures in post-secondary institutions in 1991/92 revealed an all time high of 1,050 Native students in the Atlantic Region. The study also indicated that 83 percent of Native students are completing their post-secondary education. The Native participation rate in **post-secondary education** is almost double that of the non-Native population in the Atlantic Region.

## Quebec

- **December 13** - The Mohawk community at **Kahnawake** signed a framework agreement to initiate negotiations on a new relationship between Canada and Kahnawake. The negotiations, expected to take place over the next two years, will involve: the nature and scope of Mohawk government; justice matters; land management and control; financial matters; the environment; trade and commerce; social services; health; education; and cultural matters.

- **December 13** - The **Atikamekw of Manouane** opened their \$1 million community centre in Manouane, near La Tuque. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development contributed \$200,000 towards the capital costs. The centre, which was managed and built under the supervision of the band council, is expected to meet the socio-recreational needs of the local Native population.

## Ontario

- **December 9** - Six new reserves will be created in northern Ontario under the terms of an agreement signed by the governments of Canada and Ontario, and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and six of its First Nation members. The historic agreement provides for 235 square miles of Crown land to be transferred to reserve status and \$60.5 million to provide new housing, sewers, fire-fighting equipment, clean drinking water, electricity and other basic facilities.

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### *Manitoba*

- **December 5** - A \$5.3-million water distribution and sewer system for homes in the Big Eddy and Cow's Head communities on **The Pas Reserve** was completed. The project includes a new piped water system and sewage disposal facilities for 88 houses, a church and community hall.
- **December 19** - An eight-unit family crisis centre was opened on the **Fisher River Indian Reserve**, north of Winnipeg. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provided a grant of \$395,000 under the Project Haven Program for the capital cost of the centre. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will provide annual operating funds of \$268,000.

### *Saskatchewan*

- **December** - A **sewer and water treatment system** was completed at the Pelican Narrows Reserve near Flin Flon. The system provides water and sewer services to 50 houses and 65 lots for the Peter Ballantyne Band. The \$1.65 million cost was funded by DIAND.
- **December** - Construction of a water well, treatment plant, sewage lagoon, and water and sewer mains was completed at the **Southend Reserve**, northeast of La Ronge. The system will service existing community structures and 55 residential lots. When a second sewer lagoon and the service connections to all existing structures are completed in 1992, the total cost of the project will be approximately \$1.6 million. The water system replaces an existing well which was high in nitrates.
- **December** - A \$500,000 project at **Kinistin Reserve** near Prince Albert will provide sewer and water service to approximately 40 residential lots and existing community buildings in a new subdivision. Phase one of this project has now been completed.

- **December** - Phase one of a water and sewer project was completed at **Cumberland House Reserve**, north of Hudson Bay. The new, \$300,000-system

will replace an outdated system and will serve 22 existing houses and 23 new lots.

- **December** - A \$900,000-project to upgrade two water treatment plants and construct a storage reservoir to improve the quality of water was completed at the **Red Earth Reserve** near Hudson Bay.
- **December** - A project at the **Lac La Ronge Reserve** in northern Saskatchewan has provided water and sewer services to 36 new lots at a cost of approximately \$300,000.



### *Alberta*

- **December 6** - The Loon Lake Indian community in Alberta was granted band status and will be known as the **Loon River Cree Band**. Loon Lake is one of seven isolated communities in northern Alberta that were missed by Canada's Treaty 8 Commissioners in 1899. The creation of the band is the first step towards Loon Lake's adhesion to Treaty 8.
- **December** - Construction began on providing 19 homes on the **Swan River Reserve** in northern Alberta with potable water. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is contributing \$269,110 towards the costs.

### *British Columbia*

- **December 10** - A Local Education Agreement was signed between the **Kootenay Band** and the Creston-Kaslo School District. Under the agreement, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will provide some \$157,000 to the band to educate 25 students from the Kootenay Band during the 1991/92 school year.
- **December 12** - An agreement-in-principle, valued at \$11.5 million, was reached with the **Lax'Kw'Alaams Band** near Port Simpson in settlement of their specific claim over the surrender of a portion of the Tsimpsean Reserve #2.

### *Yukon*

- **December 12** - A detailed water and sediment analysis program will be

conducted under the Arctic Environmental Strategy. The program will identify the sources and extent of contaminant pollution in the Lake Laberge basin. Results of the study will assist in preparing clean-up and remedial measures important to the continuing health of the Native food fishery.

- **December 16** - A report to promote **Native participation in mining** was released jointly by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and by the mining departments from provincial and territorial governments. The report, *It Can Be Done*, is based on a study begun in 1989. It includes a checklist to assist companies proposing activities on or near Aboriginal lands, a summary of socio-economic agreements, case studies of programs in support of Native economic development and of mineral associations initiatives to increase Aboriginal participation in mining.

### *Northwest Territories*

- **December 19** - **The Holman Community Corporation** received \$3,000 in Environmental Action Program funds under the Arctic Environmental Strategy (AES). The corporation will manufacture and post Inuvialuit Land Signs displaying information on location, land use and reminders to campsite users to be environmentally aware.
- **The Fort Norman Hunters and Trappers Association** also received funds under the AES. \$3,500 will be used for building access roads and for establishing and managing a woodlot to harvest black spruce in a burn area.

## NOUVELLES

DÉCEMBRE 1991

En décembre dernier, deux accords historiques, signés dans le nord du pays, ont renforcé le Programme pour les autochtones : le premier avec le Conseil des Indiens du Yukon, et le second, avec la Fédération Tungavik du Nunavut.

Le 5 décembre, le **Conseil des Indiens du Yukon** a adopté l'entente sur la revendication territoriale globale au Yukon. Les dirigeants du Conseil et les chefs des quatorze Premières Nations qui le forment ont paraphé la version révisée de l'Entente-cadre finale et quatre modèles d'entente finale touchant leur peuple, en plus des accords définitifs concernant leur autonomie gouvernementale. Les chefs ont approuvé les modèles d'entente, et les membres des quatre Premières Nations visées devront maintenant les ratifier. En attendant la ratification par les membres des Premières Nations, on présentera sous peu les arrangements sur les revendications territoriales aux cabinets fédéral et territorial pour qu'ils les approuvent avant la rédaction des lois appropriées.

Le 16 décembre, une entente finale a également été conclue avec la **Fédération Tungavik du Nunavut** (FTN) sur les modalités du règlement des revendications territoriales de la FTN dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Au nombre des principales conditions, les Inuit acquerront les titres de propriété sur 350 000 kilomètres carrés, un paiement en espèces de 580 millions de dollars échelonné sur quatorze ans et agiront comme partenaires égaux au sein des conseils d'aménagement des terres, d'utilisation des eaux et de gestion de la faune. L'Entente établit également les premières étapes menant à la création du nouveau territoire du Nunavut. La première étape de ce processus comprend la négociation d'un accord politique relativement aux genres de pouvoirs, aux principes de financement et au moment opportun pour la création d'un gouvernement territorial du Nunavut. Une fois l'accord conclu, le Parlement adoptera une loi visant la création du nouveau territoire. De plus, l'on doit tenir un plébiscite au printemps dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, avant la ratification de l'entente finale, afin de confirmer que la frontière proposée a été approuvée.

Également en décembre, le gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique s'est uni au

gouvernement fédéral pour accepter les dix-neuf recommandations du **Groupe de travail sur les revendications territoriales en C.-B.** Le ministre Siddon s'est dit encouragé par la décision prise. Selon lui, elle signifie que la province s'engage à participer aux négociations et à créer un nouveau lien avec ses Premières Nations. L'une des recommandations clés portait sur l'établissement d'une commission tripartite des traités de la C.-B., chargée de veiller à ce que le processus de négociation soit juste, impartiale et efficace.

D'après le premier rapport annuel relatif aux **Négociations sur l'accès aux ressources (NAR)**, un nouveau programme d'aide à la mise sur pied d'entreprises procure des emplois et des revenus aux collectivités autochtones. Au cours de sa première année d'existence, le programme NAR a permis de consacrer 1,6 million de dollars à cinquante projets de développement des ressources, qui ont déjà généré plus de 600 emplois. Cet appui financier aide les collectivités indiennes, inuit et innu à mettre en valeur les ressources locales. Les entreprises d'exploitation minière et de pêche, tout particulièrement, ont connu beaucoup de succès.

Sur le plan régional, la mise en oeuvre du Programme pour les autochtones a progressé tout autant.

### Atlantique

- Décembre** - Le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien et la Direction générale des services médicaux du ministère de la Santé et du Bien-être social ont financé conjointement une initiative destinée à **prévenir la violence familiale** chez les autochtones. Sept organismes des Premières Nations du Nouveau-Brunswick ont reçu des fonds et sont en train d'élaborer des programmes de prévention communautaires. Il s'agit de la première mesure du genre dans la région.
- Décembre** - D'après les statistiques de 1991-1992 sur le nombre d'inscriptions dans les établissements d'**enseignement post-secondaire**, un nombre record d'autochtones, soit 1 050, y poursuivent leurs études. L'analyse révélait aussi que 83 p. 100 des étudiants en question terminent leurs études. Dans la région de



l'Atlantique, la proportion d'autochtones à ce niveau est presque le double de celle des étudiants non autochtones.

### Québec

- 13 décembre** - La communauté mohawk de **Kahnawake** a signé une entente-cadre visant à entamer des négociations sur une nouvelle relation entre le Canada et la réserve. Les négociations, qui devraient avoir lieu au cours des deux prochaines années, porteront sur la nature et les compétences de l'administration mohawk, la justice, la gestion et le contrôle des terres, les questions financières, l'environnement, le commerce, ainsi que les services sociaux, la santé, l'éducation et la culture.
- 13 décembre** - La nation **attikamekw** de **Manouane**, près de La Tuque, a ouvert son centre communautaire construit au coût d'un million de dollars. Le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien a versé 200 000 \$ au titre des immobilisations. Le centre, géré et bâti sous la surveillance du conseil de bande, devrait répondre aux besoins de la population autochtone locale en matière d'activités sociales et récréatives.

### Ontario

- 9 décembre** - En vertu d'un accord signé par les gouvernements du Canada et de l'Ontario, la nation **nishnawbe-aski** et six de ses Premières Nations membres, on créera **six nouvelles réserves** dans le nord de la province. L'entente historique prévoit de constituer en réserve 235 milles carrés de terres de la Couronne et de verser 60,5 millions de dollars pour construire de nouveaux logements et égouts, acheter du matériel de lutte contre l'incendie, et fournir une eau potable propre, de l'électricité et d'autres services de base.
- 13 décembre** - Un premier coup de pioche a marqué le début des travaux de construction d'une usine d'épuration des eaux pour une nouvelle subdivision de la **Première Nation de Garden River**, près de Sault-Sainte-Marie; l'installation coûtera 3,7 millions de dollars.



## Manitoba

- **5 décembre** - Les collectivités de Big Eddy et de Cow's Head, dans la **réserve de Le Pas**, possèdent maintenant un réseau d'approvisionnement en eau et d'égout, construit au coût de 5,3 millions de dollars. Le projet comprend un nouveau système d'eau courante et des installations d'élimination des eaux usées; quatre-vingt-huit maisons, une église et un centre communautaire y sont reliés.
- **19 décembre** - Un centre d'aide à la famille comptant huit locaux a ouvert ses portes dans la **réserve indienne de Fisher River**, au nord de Winnipeg. La Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement a versé une subvention de 395 000 \$ dans le cadre de l'Opération refuge, en vue de payer les frais d'investissement. Le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien fournira, chaque année, les fonds nécessaires à l'exploitation du centre, soit 268 000 \$.

## Saskatchewan

- **Décembre** - On a complété un **système d'égout et d'épuration des eaux** dans la **réserve de Pelican Narrows**, près de Flin Flon. Grâce à lui, cinquante maisons et soixante-cinq terrains de la bande Peter Ballantyne, bénéficient de services d'approvisionnement en eau et d'égout. Le projet de 1,65 million de dollars a été financé par le MAINC.
- **Décembre** - Les travaux de construction d'un puits, d'une usine d'épuration, d'un bassin de stabilisation et de conduites principales d'aqueduc et d'égout ont pris fin dans la **réserve de Southend**, au nord-est de La Ronge. Le réseau reliera les immeubles existants de la collectivité et cinquante-cinq terrains résidentiels. Lorsque le second bassin de stabilisation et les raccords seront achevés en 1992, le coût total du projet se chiffrera à environ 1,6 million de dollars. Le réseau d'aqueduc remplace un puits existant où la teneur en nitrates était élevée.

- **Décembre** - Grâce à un projet de 500 000 \$ dans la **réserve de Kinistin**, près de Prince-Albert, on pourra offrir, dans une nouvelle subdivision, des services d'égout et d'approvisionnement en eau à environ quarante propriétaires de terrain résidentiel et à ceux des immeubles existants. La première phase du projet est maintenant terminée.

- **Décembre** - On a achevé la première phase d'un projet d'approvisionnement en eau et d'égout à la **réserve de Cumberland House**, au nord de Hudson Bay. Le nouveau réseau, construit au coût de 300 000 \$, remplacera un système désuet; vingt-deux maisons existantes et vingt-trois nouveaux terrains en bénéficieront.
- **Décembre** - On a terminé un projet de 900 000 \$ dont l'objet était de moderniser deux usines d'épuration des eaux et de construire un réservoir de stockage pour assainir les eaux à la **réserve de Red Earth**, près de Hudson Bay.
- **Décembre** - À un coût d'environ 300 000 \$, on a aménagé, à la **réserve de Lac la Ronge**, un système d'approvisionnement en eau et d'égout qui relie 36 nouveaux terrains.

## Alberta

- **6 décembre** - La collectivité indienne de Loon Lake, en Alberta, a obtenu le statut de bande et s'appellera désormais la **bande cri de Loon River**. Loon Lake est l'une des sept collectivités isolées du Nord de la province que les commissaires chargés du Traité fédéral n° 8 ont oubliées en 1899. La création de la bande constitue la première étape à franchir en vue de son adhésion au traité.
- **Décembre** - Les travaux dont l'objet est d'approvisionner en eau potable dix-neuf foyers dans la **réserve de Swan River**, située dans le nord de l'Alberta, ont commencé. L'apport du ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien à ce projet se chiffre à 269 110 \$.

## Colombie-Britannique

- **10 décembre** - Une entente locale en matière d'éducation a été signée entre la **bande de Kootenay** et le district scolaire de Creston-Kaslo. L'accord prévoit que le MAINC versera à la bande quelque 157 000 dollars en vue de l'éducation de 25 étudiants au cours de l'année scolaire 1991-1992.
- **12 décembre** - Un accord de principe, portant sur 11,5 millions de dollars, a été conclu avec la **bande Lax'Kw'Alaams**, près de Port Simpson, pour régler sa revendication territoriale relative à une portion de la réserve Tsimpsean n° 2.

## Yukon

- **12 décembre** - En vertu de la Stratégie pour l'environnement arctique, on lancera un programme détaillé d'**analyse des eaux et des sédiments**. Le programme visera à cerner l'origine et l'étendue de la pollution dans le réservoir du lac Laberge. Les résultats de l'étude permettront d'adopter des mesures d'assainissement pour garantir la salubrité des produits de la pêche des autochtones dans l'avenir.
- **16 décembre** - Le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien et ceux chargés des mines dans les provinces et les territoires ont publié conjointement un rapport destiné à promouvoir la **participation de la main-d'œuvre autochtone** dans le secteur minier. Le rapport, intitulé **C'EST FAISABLE**, repose sur une étude amorcée en 1989. Il comprend une liste de contrôle pour aider les sociétés à proposer des activités sur des terres autochtones ou près de celles-ci, un résumé des ententes socio-économiques intervenues, des études de cas sur des programmes de développement économique autochtone, et des comptes rendus sur des initiatives d'associations de sociétés minières visant à accroître la proportion d'autochtones dans leur secteur.

## Territoires du Nord-Ouest

- **19 décembre** - En vertu de la Stratégie pour l'environnement arctique (SEA), la **Holman Community Corporation** a reçu une somme de 3 000 \$ dans le cadre du Programme d'action environnementale. La société fabriquera et installera des panneaux signalétiques marquant la frontière du territoire inuialuit et présentant des renseignements sur les lieux et sur l'utilisation des terres, et sensibilisant les campeurs au respect de l'environnement.
- La **Fort Norman Hunters and Trappers Association** a également reçu des fonds en vertu de la SEA. Une somme de 3 500 \$ sera affectée à la construction de routes d'accès, et à l'établissement et à la gestion d'une terre à bois située dans une zone incendiée, en vue d'y récolter de l'épinette noire.

NOVEMBER 1991

There were major national developments on the Native Agenda during November 1991.

The federal government is showing leadership in developing a new constitutional order ensuring that aboriginal people occupy a special place in that vision.

On November 1, Minister of Justice Kim Campbell released a discussion paper entitled **Aboriginal Peoples, Self-Government and Constitutional Reform**. The paper addresses constitutional issues of fundamental concern to aboriginal peoples in Canada and puts forward proposals to ensure that aboriginal people fully participate in our country's social, economic and political life.

A few days later, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), and Benoît Bouchard, Minister of Health and Welfare Canada (HWC), announced an \$8-million fund for three new initiatives to assist **aboriginal people with disabilities** living on reserves. DIAND will contribute \$5 million, while HWC will contribute an additional \$3 million toward the program.

**Strengthening the Spirit**, the first of a series of three international conferences organized by the Indigenous Nations of the Americas took place in Ottawa/Hull on November 10 to 14, 1991. DIAND contributed \$200,000 towards the conference.

In Vancouver, Minister Tom Siddon reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to post-secondary education for Canada's aboriginal peoples. By 1995-96, the government's commitment will represent more than a \$1-billion investment in the future of young aboriginal people in Canada over a five-year period.

Good progress continues in settling land claims. In British Columbia, major changes will result from the federal government's acceptance of the B.C.

Comprehensive Claims Task Force Report. Elsewhere across the country, the developments were equally significant.

### Northwest Territories

- Eighteen environmental projects submitted by schools across the Northwest Territories received funding of \$50,000 under the Environmental Action Program, which is part of the Green Plan's Arctic Environmental Strategy. The schools range from kindergarten to grade twelve. Because of the subsistence lifestyle of the aboriginal peoples in the north, these projects will assist in preserving and improving their traditional way of life.

### Yukon

- November 6 -- A \$90,000 chemical analysis program is being conducted to determine the extent of contamination in fish netted from the Yukon River and the Laberge, Bennet, Tagish and Marsh lakes. The analysis, which will determine whether contaminants such as PCBs and pesticides are present, will assist officials in determining the area of contamination and the possible sources. Decisions on clean-up work can then be made. The program is part of the Arctic Environmental Strategy and will assist in preserving and improving the traditional way of life of the aboriginal population in the north.

- November 18 -- The **Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation** and the governments of Canada and the Yukon reached a **final land claims agreement**. It will be submitted to the members of this First Nation for ratification in the next few months. The three parties will meet to discuss the details of a self-government agreement to accompany the First Nation Final Agreement.

- November 21 -- The **Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation** made its **final selection of land**, ensuring that the lands cannot be staked for mining and will not be sold or leased. The Nacho Nyak Dun land selection is the first under the Council for Yukon Indians comprehensive land claim. The land comprises 1833 square miles in the Nacho Nyak Dun traditional territory.

- November 25 -- The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will contribute approximately \$3.85 million towards the establishment and operation of the **Canada-Yukon Geoscience Office** in Whitehorse. The office will conduct geological mapping and analysis for both bedrock and placer deposits, activities which will assist the exploration and mining industries to find and develop mineral deposits. The office will be administered and staffed by the Yukon Government, which is also contributing about \$1.65 million. The Geoscience Office will assist in increasing native participation in economic development projects in the north.

### British Columbia

- November 12 and 28 -- Two local education agreements were signed. The first was between the Lake Babine band and the Burns Lake School District; the second between the Stellatqua Band and the Nechako School District. These agreements enable the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to directly resource First Nations.
- November 13 -- Minister Tom Siddon announced that the federal government had accepted all 19 recommendations of the British Columbia Claims Task Force on the scope, organization and process for B.C. claims negotiation. One of the key recommendations was the establishment of a tripartite treaty commission appointed by First

Nations and both governments to ensure the negotiation process is fair and impartial

- **November 14** -- Two official openings for **Project Haven shelters for battered families** were held, one in Lytton and another in Telegraph Creek. Project Haven is an initiative sponsored jointly by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

#### Saskatchewan

- **November 5** -- The **Kowacatoose Band** agreed to a land claim settlement for the sale of reserve land surrendered in 1918. Under the agreement, the band will receive \$3.02 million to be used to purchase land and to compensate them for the loss of past use of the land. The federal government will consider transferring to reserve status up to 8,266 acres of land, if the land is purchased by the band.

#### Manitoba

- **November 4** -- A two-day workshop to establish a Manitoba Chapter of the **Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers** was held in Winnipeg. Under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy, the department provided start-up funding for the Council, whose objective is to improve the skills and knowledge of native economic development officers.
- **November 6** -- **Northland Band** opened its new \$431,000 community complex, which houses the band's administration office.
- **November 12** -- With funding from the Green Plan, the **Indian Birch Band** completed the first phase of its water supply and fire protection project. Phase I, which cost approximately \$8 million, provides

water distribution and sewage collection and disposal to 81 building sites, 30 existing residences, the band office and the day care centre.

- **November 15** -- Twenty-four constables from Indian and Metis communities throughout Manitoba graduated from a two-week **native constable introductory training program** held in Winnipeg. The constables were trained to provide policing services on Indian reserves and in Metis communities. The program is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Manitoba Department of Justice and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.
- **November 30** -- The **Ebb and Flow Band** completed its \$3.8-million water distribution and wastewater system. The project increases the band's fire protection capability and provides most members with potable water.

#### Ontario

- **November 13** -- Two Alternative Funding Arrangements were reached, one with the **Scugog First Nation**, the other with the **Ogemawajh Tribal Council**. The Scugog First Nation's agreement provides \$900,000 over five years, while that with the Ogemawajh Tribal Council provides \$1.15 million over three years. Alternative Funding Arrangements enable First nations and tribal councils to determine their own priorities and to fund projects accordingly.



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1991

The government's Native Agenda, announced by the Prime Minister in September 1990, represents the Government of Canada's commitment to native peoples to work together to define a new relationship, one based on mutual respect.

Evidence of the extent of this commitment was unveiled in September in the Prime Minister's **Proposals for Shaping Canada's Future Together**. The proposals provide for:

- aboriginal participation in the current constitutional deliberations;
- the entrenchment in the Constitution of a general justiciable right to aboriginal self-government (ten years for negotiations);
- the establishment of a constitutional process to address aboriginal matters that are not dealt with in the current constitutional deliberations; and
- representation of aboriginal peoples in the Senate.

No less important are other developments at both the national and regional level:

**September 16** - Whit Fraser, a journalist and former host of CBC's "This Country", was named the Chairman of the **Canadian Polar Commission**. Eleven other appointees are also prominent individuals in the humanities and sciences and have experience in Canada's polar regions.

**September 21** - The **Gwich'in of the Mackenzie Delta** ratified a land claim agreement with the federal government. The agreement provides for ownership of 8,622 square miles of land in the Mackenzie Delta, including subsurface rights to 27 per cent of this area, and 600 square miles of land in the Peel River Basin, and a payment of \$75 million over 15 years. The claim now awaits ratification by the territorial and federal governments.

**October 4** - The federal government tabled its response to the report, *The Summer of 1990*, of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs regarding the events of last summer at **Kanesatake (Oka) and Kahnawake**. The response indicates that most of the seven recommendations in the report have been or are being implemented by the government. The government's response to the recommendations is outlined in a press release and backgrounder issued by the department.

## Atlantic

**September 1** - DIAND and the Mawiw Council of New Brunswick entered into an agreement on two initiatives. The first is a **comprehensive community-based long-term funding model** specific to the needs of First Nations in Atlantic Canada within existing or potential future resources. The intent is to create a simple unit-cost method of dispersing all program and service delivery funding. The second initiative is the development of a policy paper on **native-specific social assistance needs**, the development of guidelines consistent with the policy, and the establishment of a native sectoral institution to administer the delivery of social assistance funding and services to First Nations in Atlantic Canada.

**September 30** - The Nova Scotia First Nation Chiefs submitted a proposal for a **native-managed education sectoral institution** to assume the management of the education program. Discussions are underway to develop this initiative and establish an implementation plan.

## Quebec

**September 5** - The Minister of State for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Monique Landry, participated in the official launching of **Algonquin Development Association Inc.**, an organization established to assist the economic development of six Algonquin

communities. The department has allocated more than \$8 million to the creation and maintenance of organizations in Quebec concerned with native economic development.

**September 16** - Minister of State Monique Landry agreed to name a federal representative to participate in sectoral negotiations with the provinces of Quebec and Newfoundland and the **Montagnais of Schefferville** relating to the use by outfitters of land included in the Montagnais' land claim.

## Ontario

**September 1** - **Chapleau Creek First Nation** entered into a \$6.5-million agreement with DIAND to undertake construction of a water distribution system.

**October 25** - **Kingfisher Lake First Nation** obtained a \$2.6-million generator in order to bring community electricity service up to standards.

**October 28** - **Rat Portage First Nation** established the OneGaming Ozhushk Corporation to manage the extraction, processing and sale of its sand and gravel resources. The First Nation is the first in Canada to take over such an initiative, which is expected to generate significant revenue, employment and training opportunities for the band.

## Manitoba

**September 4** - A new \$13-million school was opened on **Split Lake Reserve**. The school will accommodate 457 children from nursery to grade twelve.

**October 16** - DIAND, the Island Lake Tribal Council and the Keewatin Tribal Council co-sponsored a two-day professional development workshop "Pathways to the Future -- Excellence in Indian Education" for 200 teachers, consultants and band-employed



paraprofessionals. Presenters included 35 educators from Manitoba, across Canada and the United States who specialize in fields of interest to native educators.

## *Saskatchewan*

**September 13** - A \$482-million **Treaty Land Entitlement** agreement between the federal and Saskatchewan governments will enable 27 Indian bands to buy land to which they are entitled under treaty, but which they never received.

**September 24** - Official opening of the **Lac La Ronge Band Group Home** for children with multiple disabilities on the Far Reserve. It is the first of its kind to be built on an Indian reserve.

**October 25** - Official opening of the **Standing Buffalo Band Office Complex** at the Standing Buffalo Reserve, to which the department contributed \$122,000.

**October 31** - The Peter Ballantyne Sewer and Water Project at the **Pelican Narrows Reserve** was completed. The project, which cost \$1.6 million, was funded by DIAND.

## *British Columbia*

**September 9** - A tripartite agreement was reached with the province and the **Nuwitti Band** on its land claim. Thirty-eight acres will be returned to Hope Island Indian Reserve No. 1; 23 acres, with improvements, will be set aside as a reserve for the band.

**October 28** - The **Osoyoos Band** will be compensated \$390,000 for the alienation of reserve land due to flooding, in accordance with an agreement-in-principle reached with the band.

**October 29** - Fifty participants from First Nations and the federal and provincial governments attended a workshop to develop a policy on **family violence**.

**October 31** - Construction of a new \$150,000 waterline for the **Stellaquo Band** was completed. The new waterline should eliminate potential contamination of the potable water for residents on the south side of the reserve.

## *Yukon*

**September 24** - Official opening of the Sa Dena Hes lead-zinc mine, near Watson Lake. Sa Dena Hes, Kaska for "Old Timer Mountain", is one of only two mines to open in Canada this year. A unique agreement negotiated between the mine's owners and the resource development arm of the **Kaska Nation** ensures that First Nations people have access to economic benefits arising from the mine and provides for a co-operative environmental review process. The agreement is considered to be a model that future mines in Canada could follow.

**October 11** - The **Champagne and Aishihik First Nations** gave tentative approval to a Final Agreement, part of the Yukon Comprehensive Land Claim involving 14 First Nations. The Final Agreement includes 925 square miles of land, a moose harvest agreement and provisions for native hunters in Kluane National Park. First Nations members will vote on the Final Agreement in December.

**October 24** - A ground-breaking ceremony was held for Taga Ku, a \$43-million hotel, convention and office centre being built by the **Champagne and Aishihik First Nations** and the Inuvialuit Development Corporation. Located on the shores of the Yukon River, the centre is the biggest economic development project undertaken by a Yukon First Nation.

**October 29** - The first phase of **northern waste clean-up** was completed: 625 200-litre fuel drums were retrieved and stockpiled; waste lumber, camp equipment

and debris were burned or removed; and fuel drums were stored in safe locations for disposal at a future date. The clean-up work is being undertaken as part of the \$100-million Arctic Environment Strategy.

## *Northwest Territories*

**September 17** - Under the **Arctic Environmental Strategy**, DIAND will fund seven community-based projects involving education and recycling.

**September 27** - The federal government agreed to start negotiations on the comprehensive land claim of the **Sahtu Dene/Metis** in the central Mackenzie Valley, including the communities of Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Fort Norman, Norman Wells and Fort Franklin. The claim area makes up the largest of the five Dene/Metis regions in the NWT.

**September 27** - The government named three northern natives to the \$12.3-million **Peace-Athabasca-Slave River Basin Study Board**. The study, expanded under the Arctic Environmental Strategy, will focus on water quality, fish and fish habitat and water use.

## **Correction**

A recent information sheet on progress made over the past year on the Native Agenda contained an error. Under **Specific Claims**, the last entry should read:

"• A \$49.7-million agreement was reached between the governments of Alberta and Canada and the Woodland Cree Band to satisfy its land claim. In addition, Alberta is providing approximately \$9 million and 61 square miles of land with mineral rights."

# LE PROGRAMME POUR LES AUTOCHTONES

## NOUVELLES

SEPTEMBRE-OCTOBRE 1991

Le Programme pour les autochtones du gouvernement fédéral, annoncé par le Premier ministre en septembre 1990, témoigne de l'engagement du gouvernement du Canada à œuvrer de concert avec les peuples autochtones afin d'établir avec eux une nouvelle relation fondée sur le respect mutuel.

Les propositions contenues dans **Bâtir ensemble l'avenir du Canada**, soumises en septembre dernier par le Premier ministre, sont des preuves de cet engagement. Parmi ces propositions, citons :

- la participation des autochtones aux discussions constitutionnelles actuelles;
- l'enchâssement dans la Constitution d'un droit général des autochtones à l'autonomie gouvernementale, invocable devant les tribunaux (dix années sont prévues pour la négociation);
- la mise sur pied d'un processus constitutionnel pour traiter des questions autochtones qui ne sont pas abordées dans le cadre des discussions constitutionnelles actuelles;
- la représentation autochtone au Sénat.

Non moins importants sont les derniers événements tant à l'échelle nationale que régionale :

**Le 16 septembre** - M. Whit Fraser, journaliste et ancien animateur de l'émission «This Country» de CBC, a été nommé président de la **Commission canadienne polaire**. Les onze autres membres de cette commission sont également des personnes bien connues dans le domaine des sciences et des sciences humaines, et elles ont l'expérience des régions nordiques du Canada.

**Le 21 septembre** - Les **Gwich'ins du delta du Mackenzie** ont ratifié une entente avec le gouvernement fédéral concernant leur revendication territoriale. L'entente prévoit des titres de propriété sur 8 622 milles carrés de terres dans la région du delta du Mackenzie, y compris des droits de surface sur environ 27 p. 100 de cette région et sur 600 milles carrés de terres du bassin de la rivière Peel. Une indemnité de 75 millions de dollars sera accordée, sur une période de 15 ans. On n'attend plus maintenant que la ratification des gouvernements territorial et fédéral.

**Le 4 octobre** - Le gouvernement fédéral a présenté sa réponse au rapport intitulé *L'été de 1990*, du Comité permanent des affaires autochtones, au sujet des événements qui ont eu lieu au cours de l'été 1990 à **Kanesatake (Oka)** et à **Kahnawake**. La réponse indique que la majorité des sept recommandations contenues dans le rapport ont été mises en œuvre par le gouvernement ou le sont actuellement. Le gouvernement a donné les grandes lignes de sa réponse aux recommandations dans un communiqué et une fiche documentaire publiés par le Ministère.

création et à l'entretien d'organismes au Québec oeuvrant dans le domaine du développement économique.

**Le 16 septembre** - La ministre d'État, Mme Monique Landry, a accepté de nommer un représentant fédéral au processus de négociations sectorielles qui ont lieu entre les provinces de Québec et de Terre-Neuve et les **Montagnais de Shefferville** concernant l'utilisation par les pourvoyeurs des terres visées par la revendication territoriale des Montagnais.

### Atlantique

**Le 1er septembre** - Le MAINC et le Conseil de Mawi, au Nouveau-Brunswick, ont conclu une entente ayant trait à deux initiatives. La première concerne un **modèle global de financement communautaire à long terme**, conçu pour les besoins des Premières Nations de la région de l'Atlantique à partir des ressources existantes ou éventuelles. Cette entente a pour but d'établir une méthode simple, fondée sur le coût unitaire qui serait utilisée pour le financement de l'exécution des programmes et services. La deuxième initiative concerne l'élaboration d'un document sur les politiques relatives aux **besoins des autochtones en matière d'aide sociale**, l'élaboration de lignes directrices en accord avec la politique, et la mise en place d'un établissement sectoriel autochtone qui administrerait les fonds d'aide sociale et les services destinés aux Premières Nations des provinces de l'Atlantique.

**Le 30 septembre** - Les chefs de la Première Nation de la Nouvelle-Écosse ont soumis une proposition pour mettre sur pied un **établissement sectoriel d'enseignement dirigé par les autochtones**. Des discussions sont en cours en vue de mettre de l'avant cette initiative et d'établir un plan de mise en œuvre.

### Québec

**Le 5 septembre** - La ministre d'État aux Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien, Mme Monique Landry, a participé à l'inauguration de l'**Association de développement des Algonquins**, un organisme fondé en vue de favoriser le développement économique des six collectivités algonquines. Le Ministère a consacré plus de 8 millions de dollars à la

### Ontario

**Le 1er septembre** - La Première Nation de Chapleau Creek a conclu avec le MAINC une entente d'une valeur de 6,5 millions de dollars afin d'entreprendre la construction d'un système d'approvisionnement en eau dans leur réserve.

**Le 25 octobre** - La Première Nation de Kingfisher Lake a acheté une génératrice, au montant de 2,6 millions de dollars, afin que les services hydro-électriques qui desservent la collectivité respectent les normes.

**Le 28 octobre** - La Première Nation de Rat Portage a mis sur pied la Société Onegaming Ozhushk dans le but de gérer l'extraction, la transformation et la vente de ses ressources de sable et de gravier. Cette nation est la première au Canada à entreprendre une telle initiative, ce qui devrait rapporter d'importants revenus et créer des occasions d'emplois et de formation pour les membres de la bande.

### Manitoba

**Le 4 septembre** - Une nouvelle école, construite au coût de 13 millions de dollars, a ouvert ses portes dans la **réservé de Split Lake**. L'école accueillera 457 enfants de la maternelle à la douzième année.

**Le 16 octobre** - Le MAINC, le Conseil tribal d'Island Lake et le Conseil tribal du Keewatin ont coparrainé un atelier de développement, d'une durée de deux jours, intitulé «**Les chemins de l'avenir -- L'excellence en matière d'éducation des Indiens**». Cet atelier



était destiné à 200 professeurs, consultants et employés auxiliaires de la bande. Parmi les conférenciers, on comptait 35 éducateurs provenant du Manitoba et du reste du Canada et des États-Unis, spécialistes de domaines connexes à l'éducation des autochtones.

## Saskatchewan

**Le 13 septembre** - Les gouvernements fédéral et de la Saskatchewan ont conclu une entente relative aux **droits fonciers issus des traités**, d'une valeur de 482 millions de dollars. Conformément à cette entente, 27 bandes indiennes pourront acheter les terres auxquelles elles avaient droit en vertu des traités, mais qu'elles n'avaient jamais obtenues.

**Le 24 septembre** - Ouverture officielle d'un foyer pour enfants qui souffrent d'infirmités multiples, mis sur pied dans la réserve de Far par la **bande du Lac la Ronge**. C'est le premier foyer du genre à ouvrir ses portes dans une réserve indienne.

**Le 25 octobre** - Ouverture officielle du **Centre administratif de la bande de Standing Buffalo** dans la réserve de Standing Buffalo; le Ministère lui a accordé 122 000 \$.

**Le 31 octobre** - Les travaux de construction d'un système d'égout et d'approvisionnement en eau de Peter Ballantyne dans la **réserve de Pelican Narrows** ont été parachevés. Le projet, dont les coûts s'élèvent à 1,6 million de dollars, a été financé par le MAINC.

## Colombie-Britannique

**Le 9 septembre** - Signature d'une entente tripartite avec la province et la **bande de Nuwitti** au sujet de sa revendication territoriale. Trente-huit acres de terres seront remis à la réserve indienne no 1 de Hope Island; 23 acres, y compris les améliorations déjà effectuées, seront mis de côté en vue de créer une réserve pour la bande.

**Le 28 octobre** - La bande de Osoyoos recevra une indemnité de 390 000 \$ en raison de l'aliénation des terres de réserve à la suite d'une inondation, conformément à une entente de principe qui avait été conclue avec la bande.

**Le 29 octobre** - Cinquante participants des Premières Nations et des gouvernements fédéral et provincial ont participé à un atelier

afin d'élaborer une politique en matière de **violence familiale**.

**Le 31 octobre** - La construction d'un nouveau réseau de distribution des eaux, d'une valeur de 150 000 \$, dans la **réserve de Stellaquo** est terminée. Le nouveau réseau devrait permettre d'éliminer chez les habitants du côté sud de la réserve, les risques de contamination provenant de l'eau potable.

## Yukon

**Le 24 septembre** - Ouverture officielle de la mine de plomb de zinc Sa Dena Hes, près de Watson Lake. Sa Dena Hes, Kaska pour «Old Timer Mountain» est l'une des deux seules mines à avoir ouvert ses portes cette année au Canada. Une entente unique a été négociée entre les propriétaires de la mine et les responsables de la mise en valeur des ressources pour la **Nation kaska**, afin d'assurer que les Premières Nations aient accès aux avantages économiques découlant de l'exploitation de la mine. De plus, cette entente prévoit la mise en oeuvre d'un processus coopératif d'examen environnemental. Elle est considérée comme un modèle que pourrait suivre d'autres mines au Canada.

**Le 11 octobre** - Les **Premières Nations de Champagne et d'Aishihik** ont tenté d'approuver une entente finale, qui fait partie de la revendication territoriale globale des 14 Premières Nations du Yukon. L'entente finale prévoit 925 milles carrés de terres, une entente concernant la chasse à l'orignal et des dispositions ayant trait aux autochtones qui chassent dans le Parc national Kluane. Les membres des Premières Nations voteront en décembre.

**Le 24 octobre** - Une cérémonie de la première pelletée de terre a été tenue pour marquer la construction du Taga Ku, un hôtel, et un centre de congrès et de bureaux, d'une valeur de 43 millions de dollars par les **Premières Nations de Champagne et d'Aishihik et la Société inuvialuit de développement**. Situé sur les bords de la rivière Yukon, le centre est le plus important projet de développement économique entrepris par une Première Nation du Yukon.

**Le 29 octobre** - La première étape du **nettoyage des sites du Nord** est terminée : 625 barils de pétrole de 200 litres chacun ont été retirés et mis en dépôt en tas. Des déchets

de bois, de l'équipement de camp et des débris ont été enlevés et brûlés. Les barils de pétrole ont été entreposés dans des endroits sûrs en vue d'être éliminés plus tard. Ce travail de nettoyage s'inscrit dans le cadre de la Stratégie pour l'environnement arctique, d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars.

## Territoires du Nord-Ouest

**Le 17 septembre** - En vertu de la **Stratégie pour l'environnement arctique**, le MAINC accordera des fonds à sept projets communautaires en matière d'éducation et de recyclage.

**Le 27 septembre** - Le gouvernement fédéral a accepté aux fins de négociation la revendication territoriale globale des **Sahtus, Dénés/Métis**, du centre de la vallée du Mackenzie où sont situées les collectivités de Fort Good Hope, de Colville Lake, de Fort Norman, de Norman Wells et de Fort Franklin. La région visée par la revendication est la plus grande des cinq régions des Dénés et des Métis dans les T. N.-O..

**Le 27 septembre** - Le gouvernement a nommé trois autochtones du Nord membres de la **Commission d'étude sur le bassin des rivières Paix-Athabasca-des Esclaves**. L'étude, qui a lieu dans le cadre de la Stratégie pour l'environnement arctique, mettra l'accent sur la qualité de l'eau, le poisson et son habitat ainsi que sur l'utilisation de l'eau.

## Correction

Un des récents feuillets d'information au sujet des progrès réalisés au cours de la dernière année du Programme pour les autochtones contenait une erreur. Sous le titre **Revendications particulières**, il faut lire :

«• Une entente, d'une valeur de 49,7 millions de dollars a été conclue entre les gouvernements du Canada et de l'Alberta et la **bande des Cris des bois** dans le cadre de leur revendication territoriale. De plus, le gouvernement de l'Alberta accordera environ 9 millions de dollars et fournira 61 milles carrés de terres ainsi que des droits sur les minéraux.»

# NATIVE AGENDA



AUGUST, 1991

Working in partnership with the federal government, Indian people are making advances on all fronts as they assume greater authority over their own affairs.

The fulfillment of the Native Agenda is an affirmation that Canada is committed to addressing the concerns of First Nations. Evidence of that can be seen in recent developments.

For example, on August 27 the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, to be co-chaired by Georges Erasmus, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and the Honourable René Dussault, Justice of the Quebec Court of Appeal.

And, on August 28, the Government of Canada announced it will work closely with aboriginal people, the provinces and the territories to make Canada's system of justice administration more equitable, fair and inclusive for aboriginal peoples. The federal government terms reform of aboriginal justice a priority and has set aside \$26.4 million for this five-year initiative.

Across the nation, the following initiatives were announced in August:

## Yukon

- **August 26** - Sonar mapping of sunken barrels and debris in Watson Lake will begin soon. The initiative is part of the Green Plan's *Arctic Environmental Strategy* aimed at cleaning up waste sites. Following identification of the nature and location of the debris, a recovery and disposal program will be developed.

## Alberta

- **August 11** - A committee of Alberta Chiefs presented the Minister with a proposal for legislative options to the Indian Act that would allow bands greater control over the management of their monies. The Indian Monies Committee also made recommendations aimed at improving the administration of Indian Monies within the current Act.
- **August 11** - The Ermineskin Band of Hobbema is taking control of three federal schools on the reserve in the upcoming school year. The

Chief and Band Council will assume responsibility for the administration and operation of the schools previously operated by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

- **August 30** - The Stoney Indian Tribe signed the second largest specific claim ever settled in Alberta. The historic settlement agreement provides \$19.6 million in compensation to the Tribe for loss of mineral rights on land surrendered in 1929 for hydro development.

## Manitoba

- **August 1** - The Long Plain First Nation and Dakota Plains First Nation have agreed to a cooperative venture which will provide each reserve with a water distribution and sewer system. The \$6 million project, part of Canada's Green Plan, will provide water and sewer services for domestic and light commercial use as well as fire hydrants on reserve. It will be jointly managed by the two bands.

- **August 1** - The Long Plain First National Public Safety Building which houses the band's volunteer fire department and policing services officially opened. The new facilities, which received \$800,000 from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, will enable the band to negotiate reciprocal firefighting agreements with adjacent communities.

- **August 13** - The Opasquia Education Authority officially opened its \$13 million school to accommodate 600 students from kindergarten to grade 12 on reserve. Students had been attending provincial schools and the band school which was temporarily located in the Otipemiska mall.

- **August 15** - The Tribal Council Investment Group of Manitoba purchased the Arctic Beverages Group of Companies. The \$5 million acquisition was partly financed with a \$1.8 million contribution from the federal Aboriginal Business Development Program.

- **August 19** - The Pas Indian Band signed a \$2.3 million agreement with the federal government giving the band increased control and management of its community health programs.

- **August 22** - A sod-turning ceremony celebrated the start of construction on a new \$8.6 million school for the Waywayseecappo First Nation at Lizard Point reserve. The school, to be completed in 1992, will accommodate 300 children from nursery school to grade 12 on reserve.

## Ontario

- **August 5** - The Ojibway 1850 Treaty Council, the federal Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Tom Siddon, and the Ontario Minister for Native Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Interim Measures Agreement on lands and natural resources. These initiatives aim to conclude agreements on land and a land base within two years and ensure that the Treaty Council is notified of major developments or activities affecting their communities.

- **August 6** - The Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation signed an \$8.8 million Alternative Funding Arrangement which will allow the Chippewa Band Council to assume management responsibilities for programs such as economic development, education, community facilities and comprehensive community planning. The communities also received \$2.5 million for a water treatment plant under the Green Plan's Health and Water Initiative.

- **August 23** - The Moose Factory Commercial Business Mall officially opened. The project was jointly financed by the federal and provincial governments as well as through fund raising by Moose Factory First Nation.

- **August 26** - Rama First Nation signed an \$11.3 million Alternative Funding Arrangement which will increase community control over its financial resources and programs. Rama has also recently entered into an agreement with Health and Welfare Canada which will allow health services to be transferred to community authorities.

## Quebec

- **August 22** - The Algonquins of Barriere Lake, the federal Minister of State for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Monique Landry, and the Quebec Minister for Native Affairs signed a trilateral agreement calling for an integrated renewable resource development plan covering forests and wildlife in the La Vérendrye wildlife reserve.



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

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Canada



### Monthly Update

#### April/May 1991

A new relationship between Canada and First Nations based on the full participation of aboriginal peoples in Canada's economic and political life is the goal of the Native Agenda announced by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in September, 1990.

Canadians have come to recognize that the ultimate answers to aboriginal problems lie in native people assuming more responsibility for their own affairs, setting their own priorities and determining their own programs. This is the road to self-government. The federal government is committed to advancing these interests on four fronts:

- land claims;
- economic and social conditions;
- improved relationships with governments;
- addressing aboriginal concerns in contemporary Canadian life.

Here is an overview of the most recent progress toward these goals:

- **April 23, 1991** - A major announcement by the Prime Minister launched:
  - a *Royal Commission* to examine the economic, social and cultural situation of the aboriginal peoples of this country;
  - a \$355 million *Specific Claims Initiative* which includes: a Specific Claims Commission; a fast-tracking process for dealing with claims less than \$500,000; increased Ministerial authority to approve settlement payments; and the acceptance of pre-Confederation claims;
  - a strengthened commitment to *Indian post-secondary education*, approving an additional \$320 million in funding over the next five years. This represents an overall federal commitment to native post-secondary education of \$1.1 billion over five years.
- **April 23** - DIAND released an information publication *"You Wanted to Know"* -- the first comprehensive listing of federal programs and services for status Indians.
- **April 25** - In an address to the Assembly of First Nations Minister Siddon outlined *new legislation* being developed by Chiefs' working groups as alternatives to the antiquated *Indian Act*. The areas being examined by the various groups in-

clude lands management; Indian monies; forestry; elections/governance; taxation; and, law registry and gazette.

- **May 10** - Minister Siddon tabled the *government's response to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs native literacy report*. The department continues to support literacy programs and services for Canada's aboriginal peoples.
- **May 13** - In the *Speech from the Throne* it was announced that the Right Honourable Brian Dickson, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, will serve as a special representative of the Prime Minister to consult widely on the terms of reference and membership of the Royal Commission on the economic, social and cultural situation of the aboriginal peoples of this country.

The Speech from the Throne reconfirmed that the government will consult with aboriginal Canadians on changes in the *native justice system*.

- **May 27** - Minister Siddon met with the Chiefs' Committee on *Specific Claims* to discuss the specific claims initiative and the *establishment of a Joint Working Group*.

#### Northwest Territories/Yukon

- **April 29** - Minister Siddon announced the *Arctic Environmental Strategy (AES)* as part of the federal commitment to the North:
  - \$10 million to integrate environmental and economic concerns in the Arctic;
  - \$35 million to identify, reduce and eliminate chemical contamination in water and food of northern people;
  - \$30 million to clean up hazardous waste;
  - \$25 million to improve management and protection of northern waters.
- **April 30** - The *Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN)* of the Yukon signed an *Agreement-in-Principle* on its comprehensive land claim. The parties are committed to completion of negotiations for a final agreement by October, 1991.

#### Nova Scotia

- **May 8** - An organizational meeting was held by the *Nova Scotia Tripartite forum* (composed of provincial govern-

ment, First Nations Organization of Nova Scotia and DIAND representatives), to resolve matters of mutual concern.

#### Quebec

- **April 30** - Minister Siddon announced a *plebiscite* to settle the issue of governance in the community of *Oka*.
- **May 6** - Minister Siddon announced that the federal government is prepared to begin formal negotiations on the land claim of the *Naskapi, Montagnais and Innu*. A schedule for negotiations should be confirmed by the end of June.
- **May 9** - Minister of State Landry, along with Forestry Minister Frank Oberle, announced an additional \$1.4 million for the *Forest Management On Indian Lands In Quebec* program, which permits 15 aboriginal communities to acquire expertise in forestry management.

#### Ontario

- **May 14** - A *Native Economic Development Stakeholders Conference* brought together Union of Ontario Indians, NAN (Nishnawbi-Aski Nations) and Treaty 3 membership along with Ontario and Canadian government representatives to explore economic development opportunities in native communities.
- **May 29** - *"Strategies for Success"*, a national satellite conference co-sponsored by the federal government and Bank of Montreal, linked 2,000 businesses across Canada to encourage partnerships in economic development. The *Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory* was one of 25 selected conference sites, drawing national attention to the achievements of aboriginal entrepreneurs.

#### Manitoba

- **May 31** - Minister Siddon announced that the *Keeseekoowenin Indian Band* would regain the use of its former reserve land located in Riding Mountain National Park.
- **May 31** - DIAND regional office announced a \$1.2 million increase to its base *funding for Special Needs*, increasing bands' budgets by an average of 250 to 300 per cent for items such as household furnishings, appliances and house repairs.





JUNE 1991

Nothing succeeds like success. In ways large and small both native peoples and the federal government are building a new relationship. Indian peoples are assuming greater control over their lands, social and economic circumstances, the laws which govern them and the way the non-native world perceives them. Practical action is fulfilling dreams which seemed impossible even a few years ago and important announcements fulfil the promises of the Native Agenda.

Here is a list of the major initiatives in June:

Discussions on the administration of justice are now underway in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. For example, the Saskatchewan Indian Justice Review Committee, announced on June 5, 1991 by the Saskatchewan government, the federal government and the FSIN, will review the criminal justice system.

National aboriginal organizations and a broad range of other aboriginal leaders were actively involved in advising Justice Dickson regarding the terms of reference and membership of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal people.

**June 21** - Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun First Nation, the Federal and Yukon governments completed negotiations on the principles for the first Yukon First Nation Agreement. It will be attached to the 1990 Council for Yukon Indians Umbrella Final Agreement to form the final land claim agreement for the Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun.

**June 26** - The Intertribal Forestry Association of British Columbia (IFABC) and National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA) began cross-country consultations on the problems caused by the provisions of the Indian Act governing the development and management of Indian forest resources. They will develop proposals for forest legislation that would be optional to the Act.

**June 27** - The Mohawk community of Kanesatake elected an interim chief and band council to manage band affairs and to develop and implement a Mohawk custom election code. Once the code is accepted and in place, elections for a full-term band council can take place. In the meantime, discussions have begun with the interim council on the transfer of the disputed Oka lands. In the plebiscite held on May 31, 1991, Kanesatake

take voters supported band elections replacing the selection of the council by clan mothers.

**June 27** - The federal government announced increased funding for Indian Policing Services by \$116.8 million over the next five years. The additional money is part of a comprehensive policing policy which will provide improved and expanded policing services for reserves.

The Final Report of Citizen's Forum on Canada's Future tabled on June 27, 1991 confirmed widespread concern among Canadians about aboriginal issues. Suggested action included prompt and fair settlement of land claims, support for self-government and greater official recognition of aboriginal cultures.

The Native Agenda also saw progress in various regions across Canada:

### British Columbia

**June** - The Seabird Island Band of the Fraser Valley celebrated the official opening of its new award-winning school which provides education to Kindergarten through Grade 10. The \$5.4 million project, funded by the department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, won a national award of excellence for its architectural design. Members of the band participated in the design process, and also helped manage the construction project.

### Alberta

**June 12** - An agreement was signed to provide \$760,600 towards the construction of water and sewage systems to service homes on Big Stone Cree Reserve #166C.

**June 14** - The Blood Tribe Police Station was officially opened. DIAND provided \$263,000 of the total \$950,000 cost of the community-initiated project.

### Manitoba

**June 17** - The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs accepted \$200,000 in consultation funding from DIAND to begin implementation of the First Nations Education Framework Agreement.

**June 18** - The Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council sponsored a Tribal Courts Conference to discuss "Breaking the Cycle of Family Violence".

**June 28** - The Buffalo Point First Nation signed a \$1.4 million five-year Alternative Funding Arrangement agreement to cover education, social development, community services, band management, capital and policing projects.

### Northwest Territories

**June 18** - A territorial-wide economic development conference, bringing together Dene and Inuit groups, was held in Inuvik to examine the application of the Canadian Aboriginal Development Strategy in the North.

### Ontario

**June 14** - The Kawenooke Riverview Apartment Complex was opened on the Akwesasne reserve. DIAND contributed \$870,000 toward the \$2.9 million project to construct 34 three-bedroom units to provide interim housing to families awaiting permanent houses elsewhere in Akwesasne. An additional \$2.4 million was provided for the construction of essential services including water and sewer systems and roads for a new subdivision.

### Quebec

**June** - Four communities -- Abitibiwinni, Long Point, Kahnawake and Betsiamites -- have been selected for sewage and water treatment installation and upgrading projects.

### Atlantic

**June** - The Membertou Band Council in Nova Scotia, Davis Inlet and the Inuit communities of the Labrador Inuit Association and Labrador Inuit Development Corporation successfully negotiated access to the offshore fishery by obtaining quotas for harvesting several species of groundfish.

- NOTE: Last month's issue of the Native Agenda Update inadvertently identified the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) Agreement in Principle as being signed in 1991 in the Yukon. It was signed in 1990 in the Northwest Territories.





# LE PROGRAMME POUR LES AUTOCHTONES

## NOUVELLES

JUIN 1991

Un succès en entraîne un autre. Par divers moyens, grands et petits, les autochtones et le gouvernement du Canada établissent une nouvelle relation. Les autochtones exercent un plus grand contrôle sur leurs terres, les lois qui les gouvernent et la façon dont les non-autochtones les perçoivent; en outre, ils améliorent leurs conditions socio-économiques. Des actions concrètes transforment en réalité des rêves qui semblaient encore irréalisables il y a quelques années. Les promesses se réalisent, comme en témoignent d'importantes annonces contenues dans le Programme pour les autochtones.

Voici une liste des initiatives principales entreprises en juin :

Dans les provinces de la Nouvelle-Écosse, du Manitoba, de la Saskatchewan et de l'Alberta, des discussions sont en cours au sujet de l'administration de la justice. Par exemple, le Saskatchewan Indian Justice Review Committee, annoncé le 5 juin 1991 par le gouvernement de la Saskatchewan, le gouvernement fédéral et la FNAS, sera chargé de passer en revue le système de justice pénale.

Des organisations autochtones nationales et de nombreux autres dirigeants autochtones ont participé activement aux consultations menées par le Juge Dickson au sujet du mandat et de la composition de la Commission royale sur les questions autochtones

Le 21 juin - La Première nation Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun, le gouvernement fédéral et le gouvernement du Yukon ont terminé les négociations sur les principes de la première entente individuelle avec une Première Nation du Yukon. Elle sera rattachée à l'entente cadre finale de 1990 avec le Conseil des Indiens du Yukon et deviendra l'entente finale pour la revendication territoriale des Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun.

Le 26 juin - L'Intertribal Forestry Association of British Columbia (IFABC) et le National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA) ont entrepris des consultations à l'échelle du pays sur les problèmes engendrés par les dispositions de la *Loi sur les Indiens*. Ces dispositions régissent la mise en valeur et la gestion des ressources forestières indiennes. Les deux associations élaboreront des propositions en matière de législation forestière qui seront complémentaires à la *Loi sur les Indiens*.

Le 27 juin - La collectivité mohawk de Kanesatake a élu un conseil de bande provisoire et un chef intérimaire qui seront chargés de l'administration de la bande ainsi que de l'élaboration et de la mise en œuvre d'un code électoral selon la coutume mohawk. Une fois le nouveau code choisi et mis en place, des élections pour un conseil de bande pourront avoir lieu. Entre temps, des négociations

ont été entamées avec le conseil de bande provisoire concernant le transfert des terres qui étaient au centre du litige à Oka. Les résultats du plébiscite, tenu le 31 mai à Kanesatake, ont révélé que les membres de la collectivité préfèrent un système d'élection par la bande plutôt que la sélection du conseil par les mères de clan.

Le 27 juin - Le gouvernement fédéral annonce une augmentation des fonds destinés aux services de maintien de l'ordre dans les réserves indiennes de 116,8 millions de dollars au cours des cinq prochaines années. Cette somme additionnelle fait partie d'une politique globale en matière de maintien de l'ordre en vue d'améliorer et d'élargir ces services dans les réserves indiennes.

Le rapport final du Forum des citoyens sur l'avenir du Canada, présenté le 27 juin 1991, a confirmé que les Canadiens de tout le pays sont préoccupés par les questions autochtones. Parmi les recommandations, notons le règlement rapide et équitable des revendications territoriales, un appui à l'autonomie gouvernementale et une plus grande reconnaissance officielle des cultures autochtones.

Des progrès ont aussi été accomplis dans diverses régions du Canada :

### Colombie-Britannique

Juin - La bande de Seabird Island de la vallée du Fraser a célébré l'ouverture officielle de sa nouvelle école. L'école offre des programmes de la maternelle à la 10<sup>e</sup> année. Ce projet, d'une valeur de 5,4 millions de dollars et financé par le ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien, a remporté un prix d'excellence pour son architecture. Des membres de la bande ont participé à la conception des plans et ont aidé à la gestion du projet.

### Alberta

Le 12 juin - Une entente d'une valeur de 760 000 \$ a été signée en vue de la construction de systèmes d'approvisionnement en eau et d'évacuation des eaux usées qui desserviront les maisons situées dans la réserve des Cris de Big Stone n° 166C.

Le 14 juin - Le poste de police de la Tribu des Blood a été ouvert officiellement. Le MAINC a fourni 263 000 \$ des 950 000 \$ du coût total de ce projet mis sur pied par la collectivité.

### Manitoba

Le 17 juin - L'Assemblée des chefs du Manitoba a reçu du MAINC la somme de 200 000 \$ à titre de fonds de consultation pour débuter la mise en œuvre de l'entente cadre relative à l'éducation des Premières nations

Le 18 juin - Le Conseil tribal dakota-ojib-

way a financé une Conférence sur les cours tribales intitulée : «Briser le cycle de la violence familiale».

Le 28 juin - La Première nation de Buffalo Point a signé une entente sur les Modes optionnels de financement. Les fonds, d'une valeur de 1,4 million de dollars, seront affectés à des projets en matière d'éducation, de développement social, de services communautaires, de gestion de la bande, d'immobilisation et de maintien de l'ordre.

### Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Le 18 juin - Une conférence de développement économique à l'échelle du territoire, rassemblant des groupes dénés et inuit, a eu lieu à Inuvik afin de discuter de la Stratégie canadienne de développement économique des autochtones et de ses applications dans le Nord.

### Ontario

Le 14 juin - Les Logements Riverview Kawenooke ont ouvert leurs portes dans la réserve d'Akwesasne. Le MAINC a fourni la somme de 870 000 \$ des 2,9 millions de dollars du coût total de construction des 34 logements de trois chambres à coucher. Ces logements offrent un abri provisoire aux familles en attente d'un logement permanent à Akwesasne. La somme additionnelle de 2,4 millions de dollars a été allouée pour la construction de services essentiels comme les systèmes d'approvisionnement en eau et d'égouts ainsi que pour la construction de nouvelles routes permettant l'accès à ces logements.

### Québec

Juin 1991 - Quatre collectivités -- Abitibiwinni, Longue-Pointe, Kahnawake et Betsiamites -- ont été choisies pour bénéficier de projets d'installation et d'amélioration des systèmes de traitement des eaux et d'égouts.

### Atlantique

Juin 1991 - Le Conseil de bande de Membertou de la Nouvelle-Écosse, Davis Inlet et les collectivités inuit de l'Association des Inuit du Labrador et la Société de développement des Inuit du Labrador ont négocié avec succès l'accès aux pêches extracôtières et ont obtenu des quotas pour l'exploitation de certaines espèces de poissons vivant au fond des mers.

### NOTA :

Le mois dernier, dans les *Dernières nouvelles*, nous avons publié par mégarde que l'entente de principe conclue avec la Fédération Tungavik du Nunavut a été signée au Yukon, en 1991; or elle a été signée dans les Territoires du Nord-







June saw important progress on the federal government's commitment under the **Native Agenda** to settle claims and improve the relationship between Native peoples and governments.

The Split Lake Cree First Nation in Manitoba made history on **June 24** when it became the first to formally sign an accord under the Manitoba Northern Flood Agreement. The agreement between the Split Lake Cree, the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro meets outstanding obligations to the band and provides for more than \$63 million, almost 40,000 acres of land, economic development initiatives, and a joint resource management regime to be created by the province of Manitoba and the band. The reserve area will total some 18,000 square miles. The settlement was approved by a 93 per cent majority of band members in a referendum.

On **June 1**, Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Tom Siddon announced progress on the Council of Yukon Indians (CYI) comprehensive claims and self-government agreements. The negotiators of the CYI, the Yukon government and the federal government finalized the wording of the Umbrella Final Agreement and initialled a Land Claim Final Agreement and a Self-Government Agreement with the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation.

Also this month, DIAND contributed \$200,000 to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) for their General Assembly. The sixth ICC General Assembly will be held at the same time as the Elders Assembly in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., from July 20 to 24. Minister Tom Siddon said, "The Canadian government is committed to furthering the

work of the ICC. As part of the Department's ongoing support for the organization, DIAND is also providing the ICC with \$100,000 in core funding for 1992/93.

to approximately 740 band members. The \$3.5 million project was cost shared by DIAND, Health and Welfare Canada and the Key First Nation.

## Quebec

- **June** -- DIAND and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) awarded \$250,000 to the Regional Council of Young Cree of Québec to organize the First Aboriginal Youth Conference in July. The 2,000 participants, including 300 Aboriginal youths from Canada, are expected to discuss environmental, economic and social issues. The meeting will allow them to express their concerns about contemporary society.

## Atlantic

- **June 26** -- The Eskasoni Band of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and the federal government signed an \$8.1 million Alternative Funding Arrangement agreement amendment (AFA) for social development. The amendment places social development under the direct management of the band and brings its total five year agreement to \$51.3 million.

## Saskatchewan

- **June 2** -- Key First Nation officially opened its new Band Office and Health Facility. Dedicated to the band's veterans, the 2,976 square foot structure contains office space for the band manager, council chambers, administration, social development and education staff. A medical clinic and dental office will provide service

- **June 4** -- Peter Ballantyne First Nation opened a new elementary/secondary school for students from kindergarten to grade nine, with the capacity for future expansion to grade twelve. The Reindeer Lake School includes a special education classroom, science room, library/resource centre, gymnasium, staff room, and administration area. The \$6,784,100 facility also includes a six unit teachers' residence.

- **June 11** -- DIAND, the Saskatchewan government, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), three tribal councils and 16 First Nations joined forces to create a First Nations Forest Fire Protection Service. The program creates employment for 132 people from Indian bands across northern Saskatchewan and provides a well-trained pool of fire-fighters to help defend northern communities, property and forest lands from wildfires. The cost of the \$700,000 program will be shared between the province of Saskatchewan, DIAND, the FSIN and the 16 First Nations.

- **June 30** -- Pasqua First Nation officially opened its new band hall. The 5,040 square foot facility cost \$199,800, of which DIAND contributed \$95,496. The remainder of the funding was provided by the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation (SIEF) and the Pasqua Band.

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## *British Columbia*

- **June 18** -- An agreement in principle involving compensation of \$487,000 was signed with the Cowichan Band for two specific claims. The Mahoney Claim involved a 100 acre parcel of land while the Marriner Claim was for a four acre parcel. Both were alienated from the Cowichan Reserve in the 1880s. The Band intends to re-acquire these lands and return them to reserve status.
- **June** -- First Nation Final and Self-Government agreements were signed with the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation on June 12 and with the Champagne/Aishihik First Nation on June 19. Representatives of the First Nations and the governments of Canada and the Yukon initialled the agreements at ceremonies in Mayo and Haines Junction. The agreements will be presented to the respective First Nations members for review and ratification.

## *Yukon*

- **June** -- With \$4,600 received from the Arctic Environmental Strategy, the Champagne/Aishihik First Nation will hire an environmental educator who will share knowledge of traditional resource use with visitors to the Sha'ase or Dalton Post area.

• JULY 1992 •

Under the Native Agenda, Aboriginal communities throughout the country witnessed a number of significant achievements during the month of July. As more and more progress is made under the Agenda, Native peoples are gaining greater autonomy and building more prosperous, self-reliant communities.

In July, many successful projects were undertaken, especially in the areas of settling land claims and improving conditions on reserves.

♦ National News ♦



**Claims Commission Welcomes Six New Members** -- Six new members were appointed to the Indian Specific Claims Commission. They join Harry LaForme, Chief Commissioner of the independent body which will inquire into and report on those disputes between First Nations and the government of Canada that arise out of specific claims.

### The new Commissioners are:

Roger Augustine of New Brunswick; Dan Bellegarde of Saskatchewan; Carole Corcoran of British Columbia; Carol Dutcheschen of Manitoba; Charles Hamelin of Quebec and Jim Prentice of Alberta.

The Indian Specific Claims Commission was established under the federal government's Specific Claims Initiative announced by the Prime Minister in April 1991.

◆ *Quebec News* ◆

- ◆ **First Aboriginal Youth Conference Held** -- Native youths from several countries met in Quebec City during the First Aboriginal Youth Conference from July 13 to 17. DIAND contributed \$125,000 toward this venture organized by the Regional Council of Young Cree of Quebec.
- ◆ **Clean Water Project Begun** -- The Besiamites Band Council started construction of a water distribution and treatment facility on July 15. The \$2 million project was funded under the federal government's Green Plan.
- ◆ **Peace Bus Rolls Through Québec** -- DIAND contributed \$5,000 to the *Autobus de la Paix* on July 20, a project organized by the World Conference of Religions for Peace. Over a three-week period, 35 Native and non-Native Quebec youths visited various Native communities throughout the province of Quebec.
- ◆ **Native Teachers' Conference Held** -- The Canadian Indian/Inuit Teacher Education Program (CITEP) held its annual conference at McGill University from July 23 to 27. DIAND contributed \$10,000 to help fund the event.

◆ *Ontario News* ◆

- ◆ **30 New Native Police Constables Graduate** -- Ontario gained 30 new First Nations constables on July 3, graduates from the Ontario Provincial Police Academy in Brampton. They are the first to benefit from the Ontario First Nations Policing Agreement signed in May between First Nations and the federal and provincial governments, and bring the number of Native constables in Ontario to 152. A group of 40 more recruits will begin training this fall.
- ◆ **New Homes Built on Reserve** -- Chapleau Cree First Nation celebrated the opening of four new fully-serviced housing units on July 16. The completion of the new units marks a milestone in this First Nation's community development program, which began last November when the community received a new land base. DIAND contributed \$100,000 toward the new units.

◆ **Business Park Officially Opened** -- The Chippewas of Sarnia celebrated the official opening of the Chippewa Plaza commercial complex on July 9. The plaza provides space for five Native-operated businesses, including a sports retailer and a Personal Skills Development Training centre. The construction was partially funded through the Community Initiatives Fund, a program of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.

◆ *Manitoba News* ◆

◆ **Fire Hall Ready for Award-Winning Firefighters** -- On July 4, Cross Lake First Nation celebrated the opening of its fire hall, built in late 1991 and partly funded by DIAND. Cross Lake also honoured the volunteer fire department, formed in late 1990, that protects their community of 3,000. The firefighters' team won the 1991 National Native Fire Fighters' Competition.

◆ **Water System Completed Two Years Ahead of Schedule** -- Hollow Water First Nation opened its new water distribution and sewer system on July 9. The \$4.3 million project provides piped water and sewage disposal to 26 houses and five community buildings. Chief Roderick Bushie said he was pleased the project was finished in one year instead of the originally scheduled three years. Minister Tom Siddon credited the federal government's Green Plan for accelerating construction.

◆ **30 New Homes Built and 25 Renovated on Lizard Point Reserve** -- The Waywayseecappo Band has completed this ambitious construction project, funded by more than \$3 million in loans that were financed through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and guaranteed by DIAND.

◆ *Saskatchewan News* ◆

◆ **New School and Water Treatment Plant Opened** -- Canoe Lake First Nation held the opening ceremonies for a new school and water treatment plant on July 10. The school consists of grades Kindergarten to nine, and features a library/resource centre, a fully equipped gymnasium, a home economics room, a staff room and an administrative area. The \$449,000 Canoe Lake Water Treatment Plant will provide potable water for the entire community, including fire storage and pumping capability for Canoe Lake School.

- ◆ **Natural Gas Agreement Signed** -- Day Star, Kawacatoose and Gordon Bands signed an Agreement in Principle with DIAND for a natural gas project which will service the three First Nations. The \$1.5 million project is expected to reduce heating costs to bands by as much as 70 per cent. The main line will likely be completed by the fall of 1992.

♦ British Columbia News ♦

- ◆ **Native Entrepreneur Agency Launched** -- On July 8, the All Nations Business Services Society was set up to assist Aboriginal entrepreneurs establish and manage their own businesses. The society will receive \$249,450 from the federal government under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS).
- ◆ **Greater Autonomy Over Education Funds for Columbia Lake** -- The Columbia Lake First Nation and the Windemere school district signed a local education agreement on July 22. This is part of a significant move underway in B.C. toward increased control by First Nations over elementary and secondary students in the provincial system. DIAND currently provides funding to the province under a tuition agreement which then funds local school boards. However, more than 25 First Nations have established Local Education Agreements with school boards which will enable DIAND to fund First Nations directly. Aboriginal communities now operate 100 schools in the province, while only four remain under federal control. Under the Columbia Lake Band agreement, the school district will receive block funding directly from the First Nation.
- ◆ **B.C.'s First Native Police Service Launched** -- British Columbia's first Aboriginal police service, sponsored by federal and provincial governments, was launched on July 24. The officers will have the full powers of provincial police officers and will be qualified to enforce all federal and provincial laws and local bylaws. Their jurisdiction extends to the reserves of all seven Stl'atl'imx communities.
- ◆ **Native Land Claim Settled** -- A settlement agreement was reached between DIAND and the Kwakiutl Band. The federal government will provide the band with \$940,000 and 260 acres of land. Minister Tom Siddon said, "this agreement is further proof of the federal government's commitment to the settlement of land claims."

• AUGUST 1992 •

*The August 28 Constitutional agreement, reached in Charlottetown with the full participation of Aboriginal leaders, marks another important step forward in addressing the concerns and wishes of Canada's Native people.*

*The agreement recognizes the inherent right of Aboriginal peoples to self-government within Canada. Once entrenched in the Constitution, this provision will make possible the emergence of a third order of government in Canadian political life and will give Aboriginal peoples greater control and power to manage essential aspects of their lives.*

*In significantly restructuring the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and government, this historic constitutional agreement helps advance the goals of the federal government's Native Agenda. As the Agenda enters its third year, progress continues on the Agenda's four main priorities:*

- *Resolving land claims*
- *Improving economic and social conditions on reserves*
- *Improving the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and governments*
- *Addressing the concerns of Aboriginal peoples in Canada's contemporary life*

*Other notable initiatives undertaken this month include:*

### Saskatchewan

**Native Apprentice Carpenters Help Build Housing Project** -- Pheasant Rump First Nation officially opened a housing project, made up of 14 five-bedroom units, on August 13. As part of the project, band members received an on-the-job carpentry training course given by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. Nine out of 13 students completed the course. DIAND contributed \$1.3 million to the project.

**Specific Land Claim Accepted for Negotiation** -- The specific land claim of the Ochapowace Band of Saskatchewan was accepted for negotiation by the federal government. In 1919, approximately 18,000 acres of Ochapowace reserve land was surrendered and sold by the government to the Soldier Settlement Board. The Board purchased the land to provide homesteading lands for soldiers returning from World War I. The Ochapowace Band submitted a claim relating to this surrender in 1985.

**Native Military Recruits Graduate** -- Bold Eagle III, a six-week basic military training program sponsored by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Department of National Defense, held graduation ceremonies for 56 Native recruits on August 14.

**First Nation Opens New Administration Centre** -- Big River First Nation officially opened a \$420,000 administration centre

on August 21. The 4,200 square foot structure houses the employees of the Big River Band and the Agency Chiefs Tribal Council.

**Commercial Park To be Built on First Nation Land** -- Muskeg Lake First Nation held a sod turning ceremony in McArthur Park in the industrial area of Saskatoon on August 31. The 35-acre plot, part of a Treaty Land Entitlement settlement, will become a commercial park whose lots will be leased to Native institutions and other tenants.

### Quebec

**Canada and Québec sign land transfer agreement** -- In an August 13 agreement with the federal government, the Quebec government transferred 124 acres to the Matimekosh First Nation. The federal government will reimburse the Quebec government for 52 per cent of the \$5 million cost of repairing and modernizing water and sewer infrastructures on the land. As a result of this agreement, the community's land area has increased from 39 to 163 acres.

**Forum to Foster Better Understanding of Native Claims in Quebec** -- As part of the Ilnu 92 project, the Conseil des Atikamekw et des Montagnais organized an August 15 information session on land claims for non-Aboriginal residents of the Chicoutimi region. A hundred people, including representatives of DIAND's Quebec regional office, attended. DIAND contributed \$10,000 to the Ilnu 92 project.



## Ontario

**Ribbon Cutting for Community Centre**-- The Fort Severn First Nation held a celebration on August 26 to mark the opening of its new multi-purpose community centre. DIAND contributed \$204,000 to the project.

**Student Reunion to Help Abuse Sufferers**-- Former students of St. Anne's School travelled to Fort Albany to participate in a week-long healing conference to talk about the abuse they suffered as children. Until 1971, St. Anne's was a residential school run by the Oblate Brothers, a Catholic missionary order. DIAND contributed \$10,000 to the cost of transporting the former students.

**New Elementary School at Six Nations Being Built**-- Construction began August 6 on Six Nations' "School B", with \$6,450,800 from DIAND. "School B" is one of three new school buildings promised to Six Nations by the Department in 1989. The first of these, the Emily C General Elementary School, was completed last year.

## Yukon

**Minimum-Security Correctional Facility To Be Built**-- A \$1.5 million minimum security facility to be built on First Nation land in Teslin will house 25 men and women offenders in separate

quarters. The facility will put an emphasis on healing and teaching.

**Native Policing Committee To Consult With Communities**-- A newly-formed First Nation Policing Committee will visit First Nations communities in the Yukon to hear residents' views on Native policing. It will also examine cost implications and the possibility of setting up pilot projects. The committee is composed of four First Nations chiefs and a Yukon government Justice official. They will report to the Yukon Justice Minister early next year.

**Whitehorse Building Named For Elijah Smith**-- The new federal office building in Whitehorse has been named for Elijah Smith, a respected Native elder and land claims expert who died this year in a car accident.

## Northwest Territories

**Dogrib Nation To Pursue Land Claim**-- Delegates at this year's general assembly of the Dogrib Nation voted to pursue a regional land claim based on the Dene/Metis Agreement-In-Principle of 1988. The decision follows the official signing of the Gwich'in final agreement and the beginning of regional claims negotiations with the Dene of the Sahtu region.

**Twenty-Four Economic Development Projects Approved**-- Under the NWT-Canada Economic Development

Agreement, 24 projects were approved in August. One such project is a quarry site clean-up by the Pangnirtung Eskimo Cooperatives Ltd. which received \$15,600 in funding. This project aims at improving access to the Clearwater Fior Quarry site and improving sales to local wholesalers.

## British Columbia

**Bands Vote In Favour of Claim Settlement**-- The Dease River and Liard River Bands voted in favour of the tripartite specific claim settlement between the bands, Canada and the province of British Columbia. As part of the settlement, the bands will surrender a part of One Mile Point reserve, for use as a highway right-of-way, in exchange for 320 acres for a new reserve at Good Hope Lake.

### • SEPTEMBER 1992 •

*The Native Agenda began its third year with important signing ceremonies held in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.*

*On September 21, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and DIAND Minister Tom Siddon joined B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt and leaders of B.C.'s First Nations in celebrating the signing of the British Columbia Treaty Commission Agreement.*

*The Commission will be a tripartite organization comprising members appointed by First Nations, Canada and the Province of British Columbia. It will oversee the process of negotiating comprehensive land claim treaties in B.C. as well as coordinate the start of negotiations and monitor their progress.*

*On September 22, the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement was signed by the federal government, the Province of Saskatchewan and 22 Saskatchewan Indian Bands at Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Saskatoon.*

*Under this historic agreement, the federal government and the government of Saskatchewan will spend close to \$500 million over the next 12 years to resolve the land entitlement issue in Saskatchewan. On September 23, the Nekaneet First Nation became the first entitlement band in Saskatchewan to sign a Band Specific Agreement with the federal and provincial governments. The \$8.3 million settlement will allow the band to purchase a total of 16,160 acres, which is equal to the acreage not received in 1874 when the band signed Treaty # 4.*

*In other Native Agenda news:*

#### Québec

**Primary and Secondary School Being Built at Uashat --** Work began on September 8 on the construction of a primary and secondary school at Uashat. DIAND has committed \$5.8 million to the project which is being managed by the band council. Fifty per cent of the construction project's employees will be Native. Construction is expected to be completed by July 1993.

**Water and Sewer Initiative at Betsiamites --** As part of the Green Plan's Indian Water and Sewer Initiative, work has begun on modernizing water distribution and treatment facilities at Betsiamites. Funded by DIAND, this \$2.2 million project will be completed in the spring of 1993.

#### British Columbia

**School Opens at Good Hope Lake --** A school providing education from

kindergarten to grade 12 was officially opened on September 8 at Good Hope Lake, home of the Dease River First Nation. The school is an old highway maintenance facility renovated with \$365,000 from DIAND.

**Fisheries Agreement Reached With Nuu-Chah-nulth Tribal Council --** A September 17 agreement between the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nuu-Chah-nulth Tribal Council will lead to an increased role

for Aboriginal people in the management, conservation and protection of fisheries resources. The seven-year agreement concerns salmon harvests and cooperative fisheries management projects for 14 Vancouver Island bands represented by the Council.

## **Manitoba**

**Three First Nations Take Control of Schools** -- Three First Nations assumed control of schools in their communities on September 1. Fox Lake Band now administers a budget of \$550,000 for the education of students from kindergarten to grade eight. Brokenhead Ojibway Nation has a budget of \$700,000 for classes from kindergarten to grade six, and Wasagamack Band operates a school from nursery through grade ten on a budget of \$3.5 million. Seven other native communities in the province are also preparing to assume local control over their schools.

**Cross Lake Fire Department Wins Fire Fighting Championship** -- For the second consecutive year, the Cross Lake First Nation volunteer fire department has won the national all-Native fire fighting championship. The annual competition, held September 12, followed a two-day national meeting of band and tribal council fire officers with DIAND personnel. Manitoba First Nations now have more than 300 Level One qualified fire fighters on 29 reserves.

**New and Renovated Housing Opened by Dakota First Nation** -- Five units of new housing and six units of renovated housing were opened at the Dakota Tipi reserve on September 22. DIAND contributed approximately \$145,000 through the capital housing program, and guaranteed the loans insured by CMHC.

**New Fire Hall For Oak Lake First Nation** -- On September 23, a new three-bay fire hall was officially opened

at the Oak Lake reserve. A new fire truck, new fire fighting equipment, and Level One training for five volunteer fire fighters were included in the project.

## **Saskatchewan**

**Peter Ballantyne First Nation Opens Water and Sewer Project** -- On September 10, a new water and sewer project was opened at the Peter Ballantyne First Nation's Southend reserve. The project will provide services to the band school, health clinic, the band office, 46 residential lots and to 33 existing homes.

**Water and Sewer Project Opened by Pelican Narrows First Nation** -- Stage Three of a water and sewer subdivision project was officially opened on September 15 at the Pelican Narrows First Nation. The \$1.6 million project will provide water and sewer services to 115 building lots.

**Safe Shelter Opened at Meadow Lake** -- On September 23, the Meadow Lake District Treaty Women's Group (MLDTWG) officially opened a Safe Shelter for victims of domestic violence. The seven-unit shelter can accommodate 21 people and will have nine full-time employees. DIAND has contributed approximately \$200,000 to the project.

## **Alberta**

**New Women's Shelter Opened by Bigstone Cree Band** -- The Bigstone Women's Shelter, a four-bed home for battered women and children, was officially opened in August. DIAND is providing \$231,000 annually for the next 15 years for staffing and maintenance costs.

**Tsuu T'ina Nation Starts Three New Projects** -- On September 28, Minister Siddon and Tsuu T'ina Nation Chief Roy Whitney participated in a sod-

turning ceremony for a multi-purpose complex and an automotive commercial centre on the reserve. The multi-purpose complex will house the First Nation's administration offices, several commercial enterprises and offices for DIAND, Health and Welfare Canada and Indian Oil and Gas Canada. The planning, construction, financing and management of the complex will be done by the First Nation and is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1993. A sod-turning was also held on September 28 for a new elementary school at Tsuu T'ina whose construction will be completed in September 1993.

## **Ontario**

**New Subdivision Near Completion At Chapleau Cree First Nation** -- A new subdivision and water distribution system are in the final stages of construction at the Chapleau Cree First Nation. The project was developed by the band-owned Fox Lake Development Company with a \$2.4 million contribution from DIAND.

## **Atlantic**

**Red Bank Band Assumes Control of School** -- The federal school at the Red Bank reserve in New Brunswick came under official band control on September 1. There are now just three federally-operated schools remaining in the Atlantic Region.

## **Yukon**

**Champagne/Aishihik First Nation Ratifies Agreement** -- The Champagne/Aishihik First Nation has become the first Yukon First Nation to ratify its land claim and self-government agreements. As well, under a federal Order-in-Council approved on August 27, the First Nation's final land selections are now protected from other interests. The lands cannot be staked for mining and will not be sold or leased.

### • OCTOBER 1992 •

*On October 30, Inuit, federal and territorial leaders signed an agreement to divide the Northwest Territories and create the new territory of Nunavut.*

*The Nunavut Political Accord sets out the process for creating, by the year 1999, a new territorial government in the eastern Arctic whose jurisdictional powers and institutions would be similar to those of the present Northwest Territories and Yukon.*

*The Accord was officially signed by Tom Siddon, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs in the Government of the Northwest Territories, and James Eetoolook, acting president of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN).*

#### Atlantic

#### Ontario

##### Band-Operated School Opens --

The Bear River Band in Nova Scotia opened its own school in September. The school serves students from kindergarten to grade 6 and is funded through DIAND.

#### Quebec

##### Conference on Interests of Disabled

**Aboriginal People --** More than 30 people attended a conference held in Montreal on October 1-2 to discuss the interests of disabled Aboriginal people. Provincial coordinator of the National Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, Marianne Sioui, presented the results of her research on on-reserve services. Her study will help in the development of a federal action plan to respond to the needs of disabled Aboriginal people. Since 1991, DIAND has committed \$80,000 a year to this project.

**First Nation Opens Daycare --** The Mississauga First Nation celebrated the grand opening of its Daycare Centre on October 8. The centre serves 40 children, ranging in age from six months to five-years-old, and employs nine full-time staff and three part-time staff. DIAND contributed \$100,000 towards the project.

**Four Native-Run Educational Facilities Opened in Sioux Lookout Area --** The Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC) celebrated the official opening of four native-run educational facilities in the Sioux Lookout District on October 22. The buildings include new administrative offices for the NNEC, the Washa Distance Education Centre, the new First Nations Secondary School for grade nine and ten students as well as four new student residences. DIAND provided the NNEC with \$12.1

million this fiscal year for the delivery of education services.

##### Waubetek Tribal Council Holds

**Business Development Awards Banquet --** AFN national chief Ovide Mercredi was a special guest at an October 29 awards banquet held by the Waubetek Tribal Council to honour three Native entrepreneurs for the success of their businesses. Jessy Hardisty, owner of Foodland Meedjim, a business based in the First Nation community of Sagamok Anishnawbek, won the "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award; Gus Debassige and family were presented with a "Recognition of Business Achievement" for their multi-service store; and Rita Osawabine of the Manitoulin Trading Post was given the "Special Business Merit Award". All three entrepreneurs attributed their success to hard work and dedication, as well as to the support of various funding agencies like the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS).

## **Manitoba**

**New Administration Building for Hollow Water First Nation --** The Hollow Water First Nation opened a new administration building on October 2 to replace one lost to fire. The new building provides offices for the chief and council, band and program administrators, and includes a large boardroom, kitchen, washrooms and storage. DIAND contributed \$50,000 to the project.

**New School at Waywayseecappo --** On October 5, the Waywayseecappo First Nation celebrated the opening of its new \$7 million community school which will provide on-reserve education for 290 children.

**Workshop on First Nations Education --** On October 8-9, Island Lake Tribal Council, Keewatin Tribal Council and DIAND held their third education workshop focusing on topics of importance to northern First Nations students. "Pathways to Success - Excellence in First Nations Education" brought special guests and resource specialists together with 124 teachers and staff from seven federally-operated schools.

**Water and Sewer System for Indian Birch Band --** The Indian Birch Band officially opened a sewer and water

system on October 9. The system will provide piped water and sewage disposal facilities for 34 homes and several community buildings. The project includes a water treatment plant and reservoir, as well as water distribution to 18 fire hydrants and 60 future homes. The project is part of the federal Indian Water and Sewer Initiative, a component of the Green Plan.

## **British Columbia**

**First Nations Sign Local Education Agreements --** Two B.C. First Nations have signed Local Education Agreements (LEA) that will allow them to be directly resourced by DIAND. On September 23, the Cowichan Nation signed an LEA with Cowichan School District No. 65. On October 19, the Broman Lake Nation signed an LEA with the Burns Lake School District No. 55. The agreement expires in 1995.

**First Annual Conference on the Interests of Disabled Aboriginal People --** The first annual general meeting of the B.C. Aboriginal Network on Disability Society was held in Victoria on October 29-31. B.C.'s Lieutenant-Governor opened the conference at which more than 200 participants met to elect a Board of Directors that will represent the

interests of disabled Aboriginal people. DIAND sponsored several on-reserve participants.

## **Northwest Territories**

**Sahtu Land Claim Negotiations Continue --** Negotiations on the Sahtu Tribal Council's comprehensive land claim resumed in October. Meetings between Sahtu and federal negotiators were held in Fort Norman to discuss land quantum, money and participation agreements for future development on Sahtu lands.

## **Yukon**

**First Nations Representatives Participate in DIAND Workshop --** Twenty-one First Nations representatives took part in a workshop on by-laws held on October 20-22. Organized by DIAND, the workshop provided participants with the legal and technical background on the making of by-laws.

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NEWS

• NOVEMBER 1992 •



*Inuit of the eastern Arctic have ratified their land claim agreement with the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The agreement will resolve Inuit land claims and paves the way for the establishment of the Territory of Nunavut.*

*In a vote held in early November, 69 per cent of eligible Inuit voters gave their support to the agreement negotiated by the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN). With this endorsement by the Inuit, federal Cabinet approval for the agreement can be sought. As well, legislation can be introduced in Parliament in 1993 to ratify the agreement and create the Nunavut Territory.*

*"I was delighted when I learned the results of the Inuit ratification vote," said Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. "The Inuit agree that this is a good settlement which will meet their vision of the future. We can now move forward in this new partnership which has been forged between the Inuit in the eastern Arctic and the Government of Canada."*

## Atlantic

**Transition Home for Women and Children Opened** -- A transition home for Native women and their children was officially opened on the Whycocomagh Reserve in Nova Scotia on November 24. The transition house will be operated by Micmac Family and Children Services of Nova Scotia.

## Quebec

**New School Inaugurated** -- Representatives of the Obedjiwan Band Council opened the new Mikisiw Secondary School on November 3. The school represents the first phase of a \$5.8 million construction project that is being managed by the band council. The second phase involves the enlargement of the community's primary school and the construction of additional housing for schoolteachers.

**Book and Film on Montagnais Women Released** -- A French-language book and film about Montagnais women, entitled "Montagnaises de parole", was unveiled on November 17 by the Conseil des Atikamekw et des Montagnais (CAM) and by the film company "Vidéo Femmes". Three hundred and fifty Montagnais women were interviewed for this project, in which their views on

culture, language, the future, abortion, religion, sexuality, and life in the bush and on reserves are discussed. DIAND contributed \$14,500 to the project.

## Ontario

**Native Association Receives Funds To Promote Tourism** -- The Northern Ontario Native Tourism Association (NONTA) received \$99,000 in marketing grants from the federal government in November. The money will help the Association promote hunting, adventure touring and sports fishing in Northern Ontario.

**Child Care Centre To Be Built at Munsee-Delaware First Nation** -- A ground-breaking ceremony was held on November 23 at the Munsee-Delaware First Nation to begin construction on its new day-care centre. Construction should be complete by May 1993. The centre will employ 11 day-care workers and provide spaces for 44 children. DIAND has contributed \$100,000 to the project.

## Manitoba

**Housing Units Opened at Oak Lake Sioux First Nation** -- A community celebration for the opening of five new housing units funded

under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's On-Reserve Program was held on November 2 at the Oak Lake Sioux First Nation. A mortgage loan of \$311,000 is guaranteed by DIAND and insured by CMHC.

**Peguis Apartments Opened** -- On November 20, the Peguis Indian Band celebrated the official opening of the Peguis Apartments, the first apartment housing on a Manitoba reserve. The 20 units were developed to meet the housing needs of singles and small families. DIAND provided approximately \$410,000 and guaranteed a loan of \$806,000 on the \$1.2 million project.

**New Classrooms Opened at Cross Lake First Nation** - Cross Lake First Nation opened two additional classrooms at the Nelson Otter River School on November 20 to ensure that the growing number of students will be able to stay in the community to complete their education. More than 2,800 band members live on the reserve. The band-operated school now provides education from nursery through grade 12.



## *Alberta*

**New Homes Opened on Blood Reserve -** Twenty-one new houses were opened on the Blood Reserve on November 23. The new homes were built under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's On-Reserve Program which targets low to moderate income households or those with special needs. The Blood Tribe received a CMHC-insured loan under the National Housing Act. DIAND contributed to the total cost of the 21 three-bedroom, two-level units.

## *Yukon*

**Teslin Tlingit Sign Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements --** On November 6, the Teslin Tlingit First Nation became the fourth Yukon First Nation to sign land claim and self-government agreements with the federal government and the Government of the Yukon. The agreements were reached following extensive negotiations by all parties over the past year. No date has been set yet for a ratification vote.

## *British Columbia*

**Band Signs AFA Agreement --** The Gitwinksihlkw Band (formerly the Canyon City Indian Band) in the Nass Valley has signed an Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) Agreement. The agreement, which provides the band with more flexibility and responsibility in allocating funds within the community, covers funding of \$2.8 million over three years.

**Interim Protection Measures Agreement Signed With Nisga'a -** A one-year Interim Protection Measures Agreement was signed by the province of British Columbia, the federal government and the Nisga'a Tribal Council on November 27. The agreement increases Nisga'a participation in future provincial resource and land use decisions while negotiations on the Nisga'a comprehensive land claim are underway. The Nisga'a will assess new development proposals and provide recommendations to the province on issues affecting the claim area, like forestry, mining, energy, environment, wildlife, agriculture, fish and highways.

## *Northwest Territories*

**Dogrib Treaty 11 Council to Negotiate a Regional Land Claim --** On November 11, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council agreed to start negotiations with the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories on a regional land claim in the North Slave region of the NWT. The Dogrib Council is the third group in the Western Arctic, after the Gwich'in and the Sahtu, to pursue a regional land claim based on the 1990 Dene/Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement that was later rejected by the Dene/Metis General Assembly.

**Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Act Tabled in House --** DIAND Minister Tom Siddon tabled the Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Act in the House of Commons on November 26. Bill C-94 assures the Gwich'in a major role in the management of renewable resources, land and water throughout their settlement area. Under the settlement, the Gwich'in will receive title to 22,422 square kilometres of land in the NWT and \$75 million paid over a 15-year period.

• DECEMBER 1992 •

*The Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Act (Bill C-94), one of the most important land claim settlements in Canada's history, was formally proclaimed in late December. The Act provides the Gwich'in people with the land base and the resources to manage their own affairs more fully and a guaranteed role in public government institutions.*

*Under the settlement, the Gwich'in will receive title to 22,422 square kilometres of land in the NWT, 1,554 square kilometres of land in the Yukon and \$75 million paid over a 15-year period. As well, they receive subsurface rights to 6,158 square kilometres in the NWT and a share of the annual western NWT resource royalties.*

*"This settlement signifies the opening of a new era of participation for the Gwich'in," said Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. "The Act provides them with the foundation necessary to control important aspects of their lives."*

*Canada's participation in the United Nations designated International Year of the World's Indigenous People was officially launched by DIAND Minister Tom Siddon on December 10.*

*Mr. Siddon unveiled the Government of Canada's commemorative poster and officially opened an exciting exhibit of Aboriginal art at the National Arts Centre (NAC) in Ottawa. The exhibit is the first in a series of Canadian activities planned to celebrate the International Year.*

*The objective of the International Year is to strengthen international cooperation in finding solutions to the problems faced by indigenous communities. The theme for events in 1993 is "Indigenous People -- A New Partnership."*

## **Yukon**

**Taku River Tlingit First Nation Signs \$3.6 Million Agreement --** On November 20, the Taku River Tlingit First Nation signed a five-year \$3.6 million Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) with DIAND. Under the agreement, the First Nation will have expanded authority to develop policies which reflect the needs and values of the community.

**Government Officially Recognizes Moose Hide Indian Reserve #2B --** Following a specific land claim filed

by the Dawson First Nation in 1991, DIAND has officially recognized the Moose Hide Indian Reserve #2B. The reserve includes 857 acres of land stretching along the north bank of the Yukon River. Moose Hide 2B was first created in 1929 as a wood lot for the Dawson First Nation, but was soon forgotten. DIAND has agreed to establish the reserve and to pay for the First Nation's expenses in negotiating the claim.

**Research Centre Will Examine Quality of Northern Food Supply --** Contamination in traditional northern

food sources will be studied at a new research centre being established at McGill University in Montréal. Under the Arctic Environmental Strategy, DIAND is providing \$4.2 million over six years to operate the centre which will have links with Yukon College in Whitehorse and Arctic College in Yellowknife.

Northern Native communities will be consulted and will participate actively in the Centre's research projects. Bill Erasmus, National Chief of the Dene Nation, will be interim chair of the centre's governing board which will



set the organization's priorities and activities.

## **British Columbia**

**Native-Run Community Police Station Opens** -- The Chemainus Band opened a Native-run community police station on the Chemainus Reserve in late December. The office will be staffed by volunteer Elders and is expected to be in full operation by January. The step is aimed at improving relations between Aboriginal communities and the RCMP.

## **Manitoba**

**Barren Lands Band Opens New Complex** -- A new multi-purpose \$1.2 million band complex was officially opened on the Barren Lands Reserve in Brochet on December 10. The complex will house offices, a community hall, a fire hall, and other facilities. The Barren Lands Development Corporation contracted out the design, materials and project supervision and local residents were employed throughout all phases of construction. DIAND provided nearly \$600,000 in funding for the project.

**Southquill Community Recreation Complex Opens** -- The Rolling River First Nation opened its new recreational complex on December 18. The complex will provide a meeting place and recreational centre for members of the community. DIAND provided \$200,000 in funding for the project.

## **Ontario**

### **Kasabonika Lake First Nation Completes Water and Sewer Project**

-- The Kasabonika Lake First Nation celebrated the completion of its \$9.8 million community water and sewer project on December 7. The First Nation administered the entire project with funds from DIAND. Spin-off benefits included increased employment and stimulation of the community's economy.

**Major Water Servicing and Subdivision Project Benefits First Nation** -- On December 4, the Garden River First Nation completed a major water servicing and subdivision project in which the bulk of the construction work was done by band members. The \$2.2 million project was funded by DIAND and included the development of the Ojibway and Pushqualk subdivisions to accommodate existing and Bill C-31 population growth. A total of 146 new lots will benefit from the water servicing project.

### **School Renovations Completed**

Six months of renovations were completed on a five-classroom school at Weagamow Lake on December 14. Improvements included the addition of two new classrooms, an upgraded playground and the installation of bulk fuel storage facilities. Design and construction services were provided by the engineering consulting firm, Keewatin-Aski. DIAND provided \$1 million in funding for the project.

**Social Studies Curriculum Guide Released** -- Education professionals from five First Nations and three tribal councils, in conjunction with DIAND, released a Social Studies Curriculum Guide in December. The guide is designed to assist teachers from kindergarten to grade nine in examining history from a Native point of view. It will help students to explore both their own heritage and current events that shape their lives.

## **Quebec**

**First Nations Interested in Buying Hydro-Electric Dam** -- The Montagnais of Schefferville and the Naskapi of Kawawachikamach have made an offer to buy the Mehinek Dam hydro-electric operations belonging to the Iron Ore Company. In the course of a December meeting with representatives from both communities, former Minister of State Monique Landry agreed to provide \$100,000 in funding to help with the negotiation and implementation of this project. Industry Science and Technology Canada will provide an additional \$50,000.

## **Atlantic**

**Adult Education Centre Opens** -- The Burnt Church First Nation in New Brunswick opened an Adult Education Centre in December

**First Nation Opens Apartment Complex** -- The Shubenacadie First Nation in Nova Scotia celebrated the opening of its 16-unit apartment complex.

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NEWS

• JANUARY 1993 •

*The Dene and Métis of the Sahtu region in the Northwest Territories reached a major comprehensive land claim agreement with the federal government, announced Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and George Cleary, President of the Sahtu Tribal Council. The agreement will provide the people of the Sahtu region with land, economic benefits and management participation over harvesting, land and water use and environmental concerns.*

*Under the terms of the agreement the Sahtu Dene and Métis will gain ownership of 41,437 square kilometres of land, of which 1,813 square kilometres will include subsurface rights. They will also receive a payment of \$75 million to be paid over a 15-year period and a continuing share of resource royalties from all of the Mackenzie Valley south of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.*

*"This agreement is another significant step towards resolving outstanding land claims with Aboriginal peoples," said Minister Siddon. "Following on the heels of the Gwich'in land claim settlement, this further demonstrates that the federal government is dedicated to settling land claims quickly and fairly, as promised in our Native Agenda."*

## **Yukon**

### **RESERVE CREATED AT**

**DEASE RIVER** -- On January 12, Minister Tom Siddon signed an agreement creating a reserve for the Dease River First Nation. The agreement gives the First Nation a land base by creating a reserve totalling 162 hectares, including the community of Good Hope Lake.

## **Northwest Territories**

### **DOGRIB NATION BEGINS LAND CLAIM**

**NEGOTIATIONS** -- The Dogrib Treaty 11 Council became the third Dene/Métis group in the N.W.T. to enter into negotiations for settlement of their comprehensive land claim. Negotiations are

expected to be concluded within 12 months with the 2,100 member Nation. DIAND is providing funding support for the negotiations to the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council.

### **NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS SIGN RESOURCE PARTICIPATION**

**AGREEMENTS** -- Five N.W.T. Native organizations signed agreements, under the Resource Access Negotiations Program, that will promote their greater participation in resource development in their areas. Worth over \$200,000 in total funding, these agreements include: the Hay River Dene Band for participation in the development of the Cameron Hills gas field; the Kitikmeot

Regional Community Economic Development Corporation and the Sakku Investment Corporation to access mineral developments in the Kitikmeot; the Dogrib Treaty 11 Tribal Council to design, construct and own two hydro generating stations; and the Fort Liard Dene Band to co-manage decisions for Liard Valley resource developments.

### **INUVIALUIT DRUM DANCING IN THE SOUTH --**

**The Inuvialuit Social Development Program received over \$15,000 under the Cultural Industries Expansion arm of the new Canada-N.W.T. Economic Development Agreement to produce promotional materials for four drum dancing groups from Inuvik, Aklavik,**



Tuktoyaktuk and Holman. The promotional materials are needed to ensure accurate interpretation of the drum dancing groups when they travel in Southern Canada.

### *Ontario*

#### **FIRST NATION COMPLETES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SERVICING PROJECT --**

The Eabametoong First Nation celebrated the completion of a \$10 million servicing project to upgrade and extend its water distribution system. The project also encompassed the construction of a water reservoir, a gravity sewer system and an extension to the electrical distribution system. Funding from DIAND made the project possible and reinforced the department's commitment to improve social and economic conditions on reserves.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF CHILD CARE CENTRE ANNOUNCED**

-- A community reception was held to celebrate the announcement of construction of a 52-space child care centre in the Alderville First Nation. The centre will employ eight to 10 full-time staff when it opens in late 1993 and will operate with funding supplied by DIAND and the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services.

### *Atlantic*

#### **CHIEFS CONGRESS BEGINS -**

- The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs held its first operational meeting on January 26-27. The executive for 1993 was elected and priority

policy issues, including treaties, social services and housing, were endorsed.

#### **KINGSCLEAR RESERVE TO BUILD HOUSING UNITS --**

Two family housing units are being built by the Kingsclear Reserve Band Council with financial assistance from DIAND. A capital contribution of \$20,000 will be provided by DIAND along with an annual subsidy that will reduce the mortgage interest to as low as two per cent.

### • FEBRUARY • MARCH 1993 •

*At the two-and-a-half year mark of the Native Agenda, a special event occurred in Alberta which exemplified the strengthened and enhanced new relationship between governments and First Nations.*

*The Peigan Nation took the final steps in making the Honourable Tom Siddon an honorary Chief on February 18, conferring upon him the Peigan name of Owoo-Woow-Mah-Kah -- He Who Travels Back and Forth. Minister Siddon had been presented with a ceremonial headdress in 1991. The rare recognition of esteem comes as the Minister marks his third anniversary in the portfolio.*

*Minister Siddon, clearly moved by the ceremony, told Peigan Nation members: "I will always cherish this title of honorary Chief, and the bonds of friendship I have formed with this community. I thank you for the privilege of being able to say I am part of it."*

*Developments elsewhere in the country include:*

#### **British Columbia**

**NISGA`A NEGOTIATING TEAM ANNOUNCED** - Minister Siddon appointed David Osborn as Chief Federal Negotiator and Chris Thomas as Associate Chief Negotiator responsible for the Nisga'a claim on February 2. Mr. Osborn's appointment was effective February 1, 1993 while Mr. Thomas' was March 1, 1993.

**THIRD PARTIES WILL BE INVOLVED IN TREATY MAKING PROCESS** - In a speech to the Asia Pacific Conference February 5 in Vancouver, Minister Siddon confirmed that the interests of the general public and third parties would be fully respected in the negotiation of claim settlements. Minister Siddon indicated that the "made in B.C." treaty negotiation process will provide greater certainty by defining legal rights of First Nations in the province and thus clarify the impact on other parties and interests.

#### **Alberta**

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES TRANSFERRED TO STONEY TRIBE** - Chiefs of the Stoney Tribe joined with Federal and Provincial government representatives February 9 to celebrate the signing of a tripartite agreement on the transfer of child and family services.

Under the agreement, the federal government transferred funding of the program to the Bearspaw, Chiniki and Goodstoney First Nations of the Stoney tribe. The province is delegating authority under the Child and Welfare Act to Stoney Social Services workers. Among the services to be provided are: adoptions, disabled children's services, custody agreements and supervision orders.

#### **Ontario**

**AKWESASNE SCHOOL OPENED** - The Akwesasne First Nation near

Cornwall held a Grand Opening celebration February 5 to mark the opening of the Kana:takon school (St. Regis Village). The \$4.2 million departmentally funded school opens its doors to 212 students from kindergarten to Grade 6.

#### **BEARSKIN LAKE WATER SYSTEM LAUNCHED** -

The Bearskin Lake First Nation officially opened its \$10.5 million water distribution and sewage disposal system February 25. DIAND contributed \$7.5 million and the Ontario government \$3 million to the project, which provides the core area of the community with treated water and sewage disposal services.

#### **Quebec**

**JOB CREATION FOR THE NASKAPIS** - The Naskapi Working Group on Job Creation tabled its report, entitled "A Job Creation Strategy for the Naskapis of

Kawawachikamach" in late January. The Working Group included Naskapi representatives, members of the Société de Développement des Naskapis, and representatives of the Quebec and federal governments. The report will be submitted to the negotiators of the Convention du Nord-Est québécois (CNEQ) implementation plan as well as provincial government representatives for analysis and approval. It will then become the working plan for the implementation of section 18 of the CNEQ economic and social development segment.

#### **NATIVE APPRENTICES BEGIN WORK AT ALOUETTE**

**ALUMINIUM** - Ten Native apprentices began a one-year work term on February 8 at the Sept-Iles Aluminium Plant to increase their hiring potential and expand their knowledge of the industry. This project grew out of an agreement between DIAND, Employment and Immigration Canada, the government of Quebec and the Innu Takuakan Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam. DIAND contributed \$47,000 toward this initiative.

#### **HEALING PROCESS FOR**

**KANESATAKE MOHAWKS** - The Kanesatake Mohawk band council has introduced a plan to assist community members undergoing physical, psychological and/or emotional strain. The project -- Breaking All Barriers -- was established as a result of a comprehensive analysis of the need to counter serious problems in the community, such as drug and alcohol abuse, burn-out and the issue of school drop-outs. DIAND will provide \$900,000 and Health and Welfare will contribute \$600,000, for a total of \$1.5 million over three years toward the program. A committee of

representatives from Kanesatake, DIAND and HWC will ensure that project guidelines are followed and adequate financial controls are established.

#### **Atlantic**

##### **GOVERNMENT ACTS TO**

**ADDRESS CONDITIONS AT DAVIS INLET** - The federal government took significant steps to address both the immediate and longer-term concerns of the residents of Davis Inlet.

On February 9, Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Tom Siddon announced his endorsement of relocating the community. Sango Bay is the location favoured by the Innu of Davis Inlet.

Minister Siddon also appointed his Parliamentary Secretary, Newfoundland M.P. Ross Reid, to head the federal team in ensuing discussions with the provincial government and the Innu Nation.

On February 26, Mr. Reid and Minister Siddon agreed to the Chief's request for emergency funding to help carry the community through to the end of the fiscal year.

**TOBIQUE HOUSING** - Funding for 16 family housing units for the Tobique Band in New Brunswick has been confirmed. Funding will be provided through the private sector (mortgages), CMHC, DIAND and the band.

##### **RED BANK ON FAST TRACK** -

Red Bank Band and DIAND have reached an agreement to "fast track" the loss of use claim made by the band for the Big Hole Tract reserve.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**FUNDING** - The Minister announced adjustments over the next two years to economic development funding for the Innu and Inuit. These adjustments will help bring the level of funding for Innu and Inuit communities to that of other Native communities throughout Canada.

#### **NEW NATIVE BOARD OF**

**EDUCATION** - Whycocomagh First Nation in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia opened an office in Whycocomagh for its new Waycobah Board of Education in March. The Board is responsible for the management of elementary, secondary, post-secondary education and secondary level services in Whycocomagh.

#### **BETTER ACCESS TO LEGAL INFORMATION FOR NATIVE**

**PEOPLES** - A pilot project to provide Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia with legal information was launched on March 16. The Community Legal Issues Facilitators Demonstration Project will provide service through three offices -- located in Halifax, Sydney and Bridgewater. The Mi'kmaq/Nova Scotia/Canada Tripartite Forum is the driving force behind the project.

#### **A NEW BAND OFFICE FOR NEW**

**BRUNSWICK BAND** - Fort Folly First Nation in New Brunswick officially opened its band office in a new 6,000 square foot building. The building also includes administrative offices, a conference room and a community hall.

#### **Yukon**

##### **TESLIN TLINGIT LAND**

**SELECTIONS** - The final land selections of the Teslin Tlingit Council have been withdrawn from third party

disposition under a federal Order-in-Council. Totalling 2,427.29 km<sup>2</sup>, the selections consist of 27 rural blocks and 135 site-specific parcels. Order-in-Council approval ensures that the lands cannot be staked for mining and will not be sold or leased. The Teslin Tlingit Council land selection is the fourth final withdrawal under the Council for Yukon Indian comprehensive land claim.

**NEW HOUSES FOR CARCROSS/TAGISH FIRST NATION** - On March 12 the Carcross/Tagish First Nation celebrated the completion of 15 housing units built for the First Nation. DIAND provided \$714,015 for the project. The single-family housing project was managed and contracted by the First Nation. The contract went to Tricon Contracting, owned by 24-year-old entrepreneur Ted James, a member of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

### **N.W.T.**

#### **LAND CLAIM AGREEMENT**

**INITIALLED** - A comprehensive land claim agreement was initialled on March 11 by negotiators for the federal and territorial governments and the Dene and Metis of the Sahtu region in the Northwest Territories. The ratification vote by the Sahtu Dene and Metis will take place April 26-29, 1993.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Sahtu Dene and Metis will receive ownership of 41,437 km<sup>2</sup> of land of which 1,813 km<sup>2</sup> will include

subsurface rights. Among other benefits, they will also receive a tax-free financial payment of \$75 million (1990 dollars) to be paid out over a 15-year period.

DIAND Minister Tom Siddon said, "It is very rewarding to see the progress that has been made on this claim. Not only is this swift claim settlement beneficial to both the Sahtu and Canada, it also reflects the positive political and social climate fostered under the Native Agenda."

#### **GWICH'IN LAND USE PLANNING BOARD APPOINTED**

- A tri-partite land use planning board was appointed on March 26. The board will conduct land use planning activities in the Gwich'in settlement area as part of the implementation plan for the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. "The fast pace of these implementation activities is an excellent example of our commitment to settling comprehensive land claims quickly, as promised in our Native Agenda," said Minister Siddon.

### **Saskatchewan**

#### **EDUCATION AGREEMENT**

**REACHED** - An agreement was signed on March 22 between the Confederation of Tribal Nations (CTN) and the North Battleford Public School Board to enable the CTN to better monitor the education of Indian students.

**TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT AGREEMENTS** - Piapot First Nation and DIAND signed a Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreement which will provide more than \$23 million for the purchase of approximately 81,000 acres of land. As well, Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation, one of the bands which signed the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement in 1992, signed its Band Specific Agreement which will provide the band with almost \$20 million for the purchase of approximately 71,000 acres of land.

**BAND COMPLETES SCHOOL ADDITION CONSTRUCTION** - La Ronge First Nation completed construction of an addition to the band school. The \$6 million, 47,000 square foot addition includes five classrooms, a science laboratory, Cree cultural room, industrial arts area, home economics area, library/resource centre, multi-purpose room, gymnasium, auditorium and a business education classroom. The school will accommodate up to 413 students.





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